561-1944

The Negro In Latin America

Plaindealer—Kansas City Mo.

ARGENTINA LOADS HER GUNS

By Harold Preece

(Continental Features)

10-27-44

White Argentina plans to st... World War III next summer. She plans to lead off by a surprise attack on democratic Uruguay, freed more than a hundred years ago by Negro-Indian patriots, some of them fighting under the command of the Italian liberator, Guiseppe Garibaldi. That will be the first bloody step toward realizing her ambition of building a huge "Caucasian" empire on the sweat and the bones of Latin America's Negro-Indian majority.

She may also invade Brazil where the population is more than 50 per cent negroid. On the other hand, there is a grave danger, in view of recent developments, that the uncertain Brazilian government might line up with Argentina in an all-out attack against ... ideal cherished by peoples of all colors in this hemisphere.

10-27-44

Just recently, this writer published the first English draft of Argentina's secret war memorandum for attack upon the United States and the other American democracies. I wasn't talking thru my hat when I pointed out what was in store for all of us unless we get busy.

For my colleague, Andrew Gordon, Allied Labor News correspondent in Montevideo, Urugury, has just given the labor press detailed information on the preparations that have been made for next summer by the Argentine Hitler, Dictator Juan Peren, and his clique of "colonels," known as the GOU.

10-27-44

Mr. Gordon received his data from Argentine political refugees who are in Urugury as representatives of the outlawed Argentine labor movement.

The data has been verified by the trade unions of Uruguay.

Plans have already been made by the clique "to evacuate Buenos Aires if it becomes a military necessity," according to a recent dispatch written by Mr. Gordon and released through ALN.

"German supplies have been reaching Argentina through Spain, says the dispatch. A later story by Mr. Gordon declares that "Spanish Falangists have in recent months brought into Buenos Aires and deposited for their own- ers large Nazi fortunes in anticipation of the German collapse."

Mr. Gordon's first dispatch says that Argentina has placed orders for "500,000 pairs of special boots required by troops for fighting in the summer in Uruguay and in Rio Grande de Sul (a Brazilian state where live thousands of pro-Nazi Germans.) An armament plant in the locality of Villa Maria, province of Cordoba, Argentina, has collected enormous stocks of rails and railway cars to use to produce guns."

10-27-44

Furthermore:

"Output of 75 calibre guns from June 4, 1943 (the day the GOU seized power) to July 1, 1944, amounts to 1150. Anti-tank guns total 450. The cartridge factory in the Puerto Borghi area produced in one year explosives, cartridges and bombs sufficient to supply an army of 150,000 men. Three plants produce tanks on an assembly line. In July, 1944, there were 350 tanks, including 35 ton tanks.

"Argentina's army possesses 3,600 armored trucks for the transport of explosives and 1,000 armored railway wagons. Ten thousand trucks are available for the transport of troops and equipment. The Argentine air force has 700 fighting airplanes and daily production is now two planes. The Lutz Fernando firm installed a special plant in which it set aside two floors exclusively for the production of special explosives, whose patent is not and is the property of a Spanish inventor.

10-27-44

American Firm

"The Tonca firm holds a huge leather contract. Its chief executive, Irving Tow, is a North American and is now in the United States propagandizing for the GOU. Steel and precision tool stocks and machinery required to build armament plants arrived between June, 1943 and July, 1944 from Spain. Portugal, Sweden, and England with navicerts of the United Nations.

"Until December, 1943, forty motor craft were circulating in the Parana, Paraguay and Uruguay rivers. The craft were built in Sweden and provided with Diesel motors imported from Germany through Spain. A secret stock of iron ore amounts to 2,000,000 tons. Iron ore and scrap iron, accumulated during the past six years, is used in the La Cantabrica and Catita rolling mills, both working exclusively for the War Ministry. A body of civil and military authorities has already been designated to direct the evacuation of Buenos Aires in case of emergency.

10-27-44

"Through officers on active service, Argentina is carrying on these negotiations, which are known and tolerated by the respective governments; in Brazil with the Integralistas to implant Nazism and fester anto-North American feeling; in Urugury with Peron (head of the GOU) maintaining weekly contact with Senator Haedo and Deputy Santos; in Chile with native fascists, through the intermediary of agents Dr. Edwards and Dr. Tltamira Lopez; and in Paraguay with various groups."

The Negro In Latin America

Plaindealer Kansas City

IN AFRICA'S IMAGE

Kan.

By Harold Preece

(Continental Features)

The Brazilian Negro, or rather the image of him, has come to our nation's capital to get acquainted with his brothers in the United States.

11-10-44

The image of him—in all his sorrows, his joys, his courage, and his faith—is to be seen in the exhibition of paintings by the international famous Brazilian artist, Candido Portinari, now on display at the Barnett Aden Gallery in Washington.

This exhibition, featuring Portinari's paintings of the four major races which have shaped the biggest country of the Americas: Negroes, Indians, Portuguese, and Italians, opened Sunday, October 15, and will continue through the month of December.

Now if any public school teachers in the vicinity of Washington have been wondering how they should remember their children at Christmas, here's how to do it.

Take them on a trip, during the Christmas holidays, to see the paintings of Candido Portinari. For everything that Negroes have done in any country of the Amer-in-American Negroes I've been writing about these many months. They've asked me where they could find colonies of Latin-American Negroes in the United States so that they might get acquainted with their kinsmen from that other end of the Americas.

Seeing is believing—later on I'm going to do a whole series of articles about Latin-American Negroes who've moved here to share our lives and our struggles. Meanwhile, if you don't live close to any of those Latin colonies, meet your brothers anyhow by putting the eye on the paintings of Candido Portinari, the white man influenced so profoundly by that majority of Brazilian artists who have been Negroes.

11-10-44

Seeing is believing. See Candido Portinari's "Mestico," the painting which is the symbol of modern Brazil in its rich fusion of races and cultures.

The mestico or mixed-blood is the ordinary everyday citizen of Brazil, Negro, Indian, Portuguese, and increasingly Italian, in his ancestry, combining the genius of all races, destined in the days ahead to become a powerful influence in the winning of equality for all citizens of all countries of the Americas.

It is highly significant, as the New World of new hybrid races moves toward a new future, that not only one of Brazil's greatest paintings should have as its theme, the mixed blood.

11-10-44

For the image of Africa is stamped upon the culture of the Americas. stamped upon the culture of Louisiana and the culture of Brazil. The image of Africa is never lost when it fuses with the images of other lands to produce the culture of mixed groups like the mesticos of Brazil or the so called "Brass Ankles" of South Carolina, mixed blood Americans who are African-Indian-white with the African predominating.

The image of Africa looks out with the pride of Africa from many other paintings executed by the talent of our friend and fellow American, Candido Portinari. It looks out from his many murals depicting Negro life in Brazil. It looks out from another of his best known paintings, "Mulate India (Mulatto and Indian) which Brazilians like especially, well as it symbolizes the collaboration of the two colored peoples—the Negroes and the Indians—who gave the Americas their first cultures and their first freedoms.

Negroes Plus Others

11-10-44

But the proud descendants of proud old Africa have always been pretty smart about this business of collaboration with other peoples. They've been practicing collaboration with the rest of Latin America's common people for centuries. They've done it especially in Brazil, and Candido Portinari is a sensitive artist who's caught on to what they mean by practicing inter-racial harmony while others preach it.

"Portinari's Brazil is a land of warriors — Portuguese, Italian Negroes, Indians and Mulattoes said Curator Robert C. Smith of Archive of Hispanic Culture of the Library of Congress when that fine exhibit opened in Washington.

"You can see them in his murals at the Brazilian Embassy and on the walls of the Hispanic Foundation at the Library of Congress. You can see them in the picture of this exhibition which Portinari painted four years ago. Since then, his style his changed and his subject too. These works have thus become historic documents of a moment in the evolution of the people of Brazil."

11-10-44

Natives Overthrow Slave Traditions In Elections

Courier—Pittsburgh, Pa.

12-9-44

By GEORGE PADMORE, Courier London Correspondent

LONDON—Discarding their slave traditions and upper-class loyalties, West Indian Negroes, for the first time since abolition, defeated British planters and merchants in the recent general elections of Barbados, securing a majority of 15 out of 24 seats in the House Assembly, considered the oldest Empire Legislature after the British Parliament.

Preliminary reports reaching the Colonial office say the reason natives, who elected ... president of the ... trade union movement. ... after the war, and ... Adams, president of the ... Workers' league. ... Adams had to ... Barbados during the ... riots after agents ... had threatened his life for organizing the plantation workers. After visiting London to make representations to the Colonial office, Adams returned to Barbados and was acclaimed as "Moses" by the ... Grantley Adams, ... university ... ties, West Indian Negroes, for the first time since abolition, defeated British planters and merchants in the recent general elections of Barbados, securing a majority of 15 out of 24 seats in the House Assembly, considered the oldest Negro workers, demanding a Empire Legislature after the British wider extension of self-government, secured a substantial reduction in the income and property ish Parliament.

Preliminary reports reaching the qualifications for voters, thereby Colonial office say the reason na- giving underprivileged Negroes the tionists won the overwhelming vic- franchise which resulted in the tory, is that the "plantocracy" and election victory.

big business attempted to sabotage Two outstanding leaders of the social reforms, and other progres- Progressive party are Negro barsive plans, recommended by the risters, Hugh Springer, member of Anglo-American Caribbean com- the British Colonial Educational mission. commission, which recently investigated higher education in the islands, and recommended the establishment of a West Indian

MORE SELF-GOVERNMENT

The Negro In Latin America

Plaindealer — Kansas City Kan

Why Negroes Should Learn Spanish

By Harold Preece
(Continental Features)

11-3-44

"Four or five people a day come into our office asking how they can get those jobs in Latin America that you've been writing about. What shall I tell them?"

So a reporter from one of the 50 papers carrying this column wanted to know when I covered a story with her at Fisk University recently. Kansas City, Kan.

Well, as I've said before, the possibilities of jobs for Negroes exist in Latin America. Last summer, I published a statement from Dr. Valentim Boucas, one of Brazil's leading officials and businessmen on this very subject. Dr. Boucas is one of the closest friends of Brazilian President Getulio Vargas and should, therefore, know what he is talking about.

"We pride ourselves on living on a continent which does not draw racial distinctions," Dr. Boucas said in effect. "Qualified Negroes who come properly recommended, will be welcome to live and work in our country."

11-3-44

Up to Organizations

But, as I've said before, if Negroes get those jobs to which they are entitled, it will take more than my just jumping along in the press as an individual crusader. The great Negro organizations and the labor unions will have to fight to open all employment opportunities in Latin America to colored workers and technicians.

Many of you belong to one or more of these organizations. It is your task to see that they go on record about this matter and start doing something about it—particularly since cut-backs and post-war layoffs in this country may hit Negro workers sooner and harder than anybody else.

Meanwhile, if the idea of going to Latin America is buzzing in your bonnet, learn Spanish. Study Spanish either in some school, thru a private teacher in your town, or through one of the many excellent courses offered on easy installment plans.

11-3-44

Study Spanish and master it so that you can read, write and speak the language of millions of your people who found on it the speech of poetry and patriotism, of trade and diplomacy.

Of course, if you have your eye on Haiti or the French West Indies (there really isn't much of a chance for you in either of those two places) then you should learn French. If your heart is set on Brazil (and I'm keeping my fingers crossed on that country until I see whether she is going to stick with the United Nations or veer to the side of the Argentine Axis) then learn Portuguese.

But if you know Spanish, you'll be able to make your way through most of Latin America and changing boundary lines will be no hardship for you than changing shirts. Spanish is the language of the great majority of Latin America's Indian Negro peoples, spoken from torrid Mexico to frozen Patagonia.

11-3-44

If you know Spanish, you'll also be able to make your way in Brazil since Portuguese is so closely akin to its sister language. Spanish and Portuguese speaking peoples generally understand each other as easily as Norwegians and Swedes or Czechs and Slovaks.

Better Job Chance

If you've mastered Spanish you'll have a much better chance of being hired by some American corporation — provided we make those corporations loosen up with jobs—that if you don't know "como esta usted?"

That's the more formal version of our familiar "howdy-do."

Some of the American corporations—not all of them—realize that they've lost business by sending to Latin America people who did not know the language of our neighbor republics, who, therefore, remained ignorant of its great Indian-Negro-Spanish culture.

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Worst offenders in this respect have been the snobbish lily white Confederates who would have done our country more good by staying home and rotting in Arkansas or Mississippi. I believe that Negroes can do much to offset these bad impressions of the United States which our Latin American brothers have gotten from the transplanted polecat kennels. That's one reason why I'm rooting for Negroes to go down there.

Now friends, I just don't have the time or the secretarial help to answer a flood of letters asking about schools and correspondence courses in Spanish. This column is a sort of a weekly letter to all of you, and I'll be able to answer you personally if I can ever find a girl to help me with my typing. But I am going to give the name and address of some schools that bear good reputations. Please understand that I don't make any personal guarantees for any of them, nor am I connected with any of them.

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I think that your best bet on a correspondence course in Spanish would be the International Correspondence Schools, Scranton, Pa. There are always so many grafting schools that pretend to teach anything or everything by correspondence that I'm hesitant to recommend any of them. But ICS deals fairly, so far as I've been able to check.

If you have a victrola (also one of the many language phonograph courses where you learn Spanish by hearing it played on records. Good record courses are offered by several New York places, Cortina Academy, 105 West 40th St., Funk & Wagnalls Co., 354 Fourth Ave., the Linguaphone Institute, 30 Rockefeller Plaza; and the Castellanos-Molina Music Shops, 144 West 72nd street.

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Here's my suggestion: Five or six of you get together, form a little Spanish study circle, and chip in to buy the records. That will teach you Spanish conversation because you'll learn how to speak it to each other.

Natives in Navy, Embassy and Cabinet; Some Hold High Rank

Afro American — Baltimore, Md

10-28-44

No Jim Crow in Schools, Residential Sections; All Jobs Are Open to Natives and Dutch Alike in Netherlands

By MABLE ALSTON

WASHINGTON — "There will be many changes throughout the world before the post-war era, and plenty will be made in the Netherlands Kingdom," said Dr. H. R. van Houten, Counselor of the Netherlands Embassy, last week.

"We have no segregation in the Netherlands Indies. Natives are in all branches of the army and navy and some are high-ranking officers. We even have them in the Embassy here in the U.S., and one a member of the Dutch Cabinet in England, he explained.

Two of the five ministers in the Consular are natives. Half of the members of the People's Council were natives (before the invasion by the Japs). The Dutch Commander of the liberated Hollandia, Netherlands, New Guiana, is a native.

"The natives of Indonesia, as they prefer to be called, of the Netherlands East Indies (now a conquered territory) are not considered colonials in the sense that people in other dark lands are held by most European powers.

10-28-44

"The colonial status was abolished by the constitution of the Netherlands Kingdom, in 1922. Other parts of the Kingdom—the Netherlands, Surinam, and Curacao—are mentioned by their own names," the counselor pointed out.

"The name 'Indonesia' was recognized as official during the same year. The title may not yet be familiar to Americans.

"It will probably come into general use after the war simply because it is preferred by the people of the Netherlands Indies as a whole."

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All Schools Mixed

He emphasized the fact that complete equality and integration are the social patterns of the Netherlands Indies. "There is no separation of races in the schools, residential districts, and on transportation system. All jobs are opened to the natives and Dutch alike."

Commenting on an article by Roi Ottley, a war correspondent, which appeared recently in PM, Dr. van Houten denied emphatically that "big business interests" in Loudon were shaping the future policies of the Netherlands Indies.

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He admitted, however, that three members of the present government had held positions with the "Big Royal Dutch Shell, the Unilever and the Billiton Mining companies," which controlled vast interests in the Netherlands Kingdom, but he insisted that they had severed their relations.

Military Dictatorship

Discussing the charge that a military dictatorship was planned, which would suppress freedom of speech and right of public protest, Dr. van Houten declared that military rule was necessary during the fight to oust the Axis conquerors, but that it would be abolished as fast as the territories are liberated.

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He expressed the hope that democracy would be made to work even better in the Netherlands Indies. **"We are making post-war plans the same as other nations, and I am sure that equality and justice for all will be included, regardless of race, creed or color."**

Indonesia is a group of more than 3,000 islands comprising the Malay Archipelago, lying between the mainland of Asia and the continent of Australia and usually known as the Netherlands Indies. Literally, the term Indonesia means "group of Indian islands." The population is 70,000,000 people in other dark lands

described by J. H. Boas, former head of the Netherlands government press service. He writes:

"If the United States can be called a racial melting pot, Surinam might suitably be described as a patch quilt. Like the U.S., its population is composed of many different races, but in this great republic of the North, the different racial elements have interbred to produce **a new breed mingled to produce the Netherlands West Indies, is best**

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The population is 70,000,000 against nine and a half million Hollanders in the whole kingdom. It is made up of heterogeneous groups which differ in race, culture, language and needs.

Surinam, one of the two remaining free territories of the Netherlands West Indies, is described by J. H. Boas, former head of the Netherlands government press service.

"If the United States can be called a racial melting pot, Surinam probably be described as a patch quilt. Like the U.S. composed of many different races, but in this great republic of the North, the different racial elements have interproduce a new breed mingled to best Netherlands flag still floats freely.

Its population is 170,000. The colored natives are the largest group numbering some 70,000 (including various "mixtures"). Hindostanis, 45,000; the Javanese, 32,000. There are from 2,000 to 2,500 Chinese, 900 Surinam Jews and 2,000 Hollanders and other Europeans.

There are about 122 schools to the 180,000 population (four of which rank as colleges) with a total of 22,000 pupils. The health conditions are favorable.

The mortality rate averaged not more than 12.4 per thousand in the last five years. Bauxite industries have eased the economic situation.

10-28-44

Curacao, the second free territory, guards the approaches to the Panama Canal, the vital artery of America. Today, with the temporary subjugation of the Netherlands and the East Indies, these islands with Surinam are the only parts of the kingdom over which the Netherlands flag still floats freely.

561-1944

Colored Battle White for Mayor of Santiago

Afro American — Baltimore, Md.

8-19-44

But Because Majority of Cuban City Is Colored, No Racial Question Expected

By MERCER COOK

SANTIAGO, Cuba—At the moment, Cuba's largest city is witnessing one of its most hotly contested political campaigns.

Two men are fighting for the mayoralty. One is wealthy, white Luis Casero, who belongs to the Autenticos, the party of President-elect Grau. The other is a man of the common people, Justo Salas,

JUSTO SALAS

the first obviously colored mayor this city ever had.

On June 1, when the regular elections were held, there were three candidates in the field: Salas, Casero and Juan Taquechel.

The latter, also colored, split Sala's supporters, and obtained 11,000 votes, more than enough to have insured the victory of the present incumbent.

Run-Off Necessary

To be elected according to Cuban law, a candidate must receive 51 per cent of the total number of votes cast. In the regular elections Casero led the field with about 20,000 votes, or 42 per cent. Salas was second with 18,000, or 38 per cent, and Taquechel third. Now a run-off election must be held between the two leading candidates.

On paper, despite the June results, Mayor Salas figures to be re-elected. Senor Taquechel, the Socialist candidate, has joined forces with Salas. Most of his 11,000 votes should therefore go to the present mayor.

It seems doubtful, however, that Salas can be sure of the 1800 votes originally cast for him.

He ran on a coalition ticket of the Liberal, ABC and Democratic Parties. At present the Democrats are reported divided, as are the other groups which first supported Justo Salas.

Casero Backed by Grau

In other words, the Casero band wagon is picking up speed. This, after all, is not surprising, for Casero has the blessing of President-elect Grau San Martin, who recently wrote, "Luis Casero is the mayor that Santiago needs." The Casero forces have made the most of this endorsement.

Sala's supporters have countered as follows: 8-19-44

1. Dr. Grau San Martin refused Casero's invitation to come to Santiago to aid personally in the mayoralty campaign;

2. Casero's invitation to the President-elect and the above endorsement both suggest that the candidate feels the need of a tonic.

3. Grau St. Martin cannot abandon the second largest city on the island, the birthplace of General Antonio Maceo and of so many Cuban heroes, merely because a certain Luis Casero is not elected mayor.

Color Question Ignored

On the surface, at least, color is playing a negligible role in the campaign. This reporter has heard Luis Casero urge his followers to concentrate on political rather than on personal issues.

Casero knows that colored voters are in the majority in Santiago. By injecting the race question he would only succeed in solidifying the support behind Justo Salas. This the very mistake that was made by Sala's opponent in 1940. 8-19-44

Instead, Casero is basing his campaign on promises to make "a better Santiago." He promises that, if elected, he will obtain funds from the president for civic improvement.

Salas Tells Accomplishments

Sala's slogan is "Action, Not Words." He is standing on his record, and that record is an excellent one.

For example, the Santiago that I am seeing today is a better-lighted and better-paved town than the Santiago I saw in 1941.

The municipal budget for electricity is $23,000 higher than it was under the previous administration, and the public is paying six cents per kilowatt instead of nine cents.

Public Works Improved

For the first time in forty years, Santiago's street cars have undergone a general overhauling. The public market, the Emergency Hospital, the library, and the museum have been improved.

The public cemetery has been enlarged, and poor families are no longer compelled to pay the $2 fee originally charged for graves.

As mayor, Justo Salas has not forgotten that he is a member of the working class. Conditions for workers have been ameliorated during his administration. At the famous Bacardi rum plant, the employees have scored important gains. 8-19-44

Debts Liquidated

But the mayor's greatest contribution to this city has been in the field of municipal finances. When Justo Salas took office in 1940, there was exactly $53 in Santiago's treasury. The city had an indebtedness of $30,000.

Municipal employees could never be sure that their salaries would be paid in any given month. Sometimes the city would owe them for three or four months.

Today, four years later, the city is out of debt and salaries are paid punctually. (In July of this year they were paid one week before the end of the month!)

Personal Integrity

Mayor Salas realized this miracle largely through his scrupulous honesty and his success in obtaining funds from the Federal government for local projects.

As an example of his honesty let me tell you about General Peraza Street. The home of Lawyer Sedro Salas (Justo's brother), and the only house owned by Mayor Salas are both located on this street. Instead of repairing the street in 1940 he waited four years so that he would not be accused of having favored his own interests first. 8-19-44

Gets Public Funds

To obtain government funds Mayor Salas argued that Santiago was entitled to some benefits from the appreciable taxes collected here each year. President Batista agreed.

One of the projects now under construction as a result of the move is Liberty Park, for which the government has contributed $60,000.

Money a Factor

Notwithstanding his record, Justo Salas is now having to fight for re-election. His opponent, with more money at his disposal, is certainly making more noise than he.

Every few minutes a car with a loud speaker goes down the main street and tells Santiagoans why they must vote for Casero. Naturally, there are more Casero than Salas signs in the big stores. The main support for Salas comes from the working districts.

Delay Favors Casero

I have no intention of getting out on a limb by predicting the result of this campaign. Nevertheless, I feel that the longer the run-off election is delayed the more favorable Casero's chances will become, for people with money have ways of working on the opposition. Will party lines hold? Will the hush-hush on color mislead the colored voters? Will Casero's promises prove more potent than Sala's accomplishments? Time will tell, and when it does I'll tell the AFRO. 8-19-44

At any rate, genial Justo Salas, his wife, his youngsters, and his brother are confident and determined. Win or lose, he will have the immense satisfaction of having proved that a colored mayor could give Santiago a progressive and an honest administration.

Cuba--A Nation Baptized In Sweat And Blood.....

Journal + Guide - Norfolk, Va.

The Negro In Latin America

1-29-44

By Harold Preece

INSTALLMENT II

The Negroes of Cuba rallied to free their country in that bitter year, marching into battle with the songs of Placido and the slave poet, Manzano, on their lips. That revolt failed; Placido went to his death hurling rhymes of defiance at those who might kill a man but could not kill a people.

Twenty-four years later — in 1866—the sons of the men who had listened to Placido and Manzano joined hands with white Cubans in the bitter Ten Years War, fought under the slogans, "Freedom for the Slaves, and Equal political rights for all men: white and black native and foreign-born."

It is said that the people of Cuba were inspired to revolt because newly-freed black men and progressive white men had set up the democratic governments of the Reconstruction period in the Southern part of the United States.

ROBBED OF LIVING

The Ten Years War ended with the abolition of chattel slavery in Cuba, but economic discrimination still robbed the Negro of a living. Educational opportunities for his children continued to be legally limited although two of the island's pioneer educators, Menedez and Antonio Medina, had been colored men.

So in 1895, black Cubans again took up arms under the leadership of that Negro military genius, Antonio Maceo.

White Cubans who had their own grievances against Spain's colonial governors joined hands with their black countrymen in what was to be the final struggle of that long fight for liberation which had begun with the first rebellion of Negro slaves back in 1533.

The revolt begun in 1895 continued until 1898 when the United States stepped in to help out the rebel Cubans in the victorious Spanish-American war. But Cuba is a free republic not only because of American arms but because of two Negroes: the soldier, Antonio Maceo, and the author and crusading newspaperman Juan Gualberto Gomez.

If you ever go to Howard University in Washington, you will see the impressive bust of General Maceo, done by Cuba's leading modern sculptor, the Negro and former policeman, Ramos Blanco. 1-29-44

THE LINCOLN OF CUBA

There is a monument to Maceo's mother, chiselled by the same sculptor, in the Mariana Grajales Park in Havana. And wherever you go in Cuba, you will hear the name of Maceo as we hear the name of Lincoln.

Nor will you have to ask any Cuban about Juan Gualberto Gomez. He will start telling you about Gomez the moment that he becomes convinced that you respect his country and its tradition of respect for the achievements of any man, whatever his color.

Born in 1854, Gomez died a senator of the republic in 1933. He became a revolutionist at the age of fourteen, and died a rebel against what he believed to be the misuse and misrule of his country by the American-owned Wall Street sugar trust.

In the Academy of History at Havana, the librarians show you the yellowed files of "Fraternity," the newspaper which Gomez founded to show Cubans of both colors the way to freedom. Other Cubans tell you how he was thrown in jail time after time by the Spanish counterpart of the Nazi Gestapo, how he helpecing guide the destinies of the revolutionary assembly which proclaimed Cuba's independence while Maceo was fighting for it.

He lived to see another man with Negro blood and bearing the same surname, Jose Miguel Gomez, elected president of the republic.

DEMOCRATIC GUIDANCE

Cuba, today, seems destined to give the same sort of democratic guidance to the subject black peoples of all the West Indies that China is giving to the subject brown and yellow peoples of all Asia — although China sprawls over a great part of the earth and Cuba is just about the size of Pennsylvania. 1-29-44

Negro workers throughout the West Indies are organizing into democratic trade unions because of the example set by Cuba's unions which, like the CIO organizations in our own country, draw no color, race, or creed.

The Cuban labor unions are among the most militant and powerfully organized groups of their kind in the whole Western hemisphere.

They are doing much to iron out any lingering antagonisms between Negro and white Cubans; between Spanish-speaking native Negroes, French-speaking Negroes imported as laborers from Haiti, and English-speaking Negroes brought over by the sugar planters from the British West Indies.

Most of us know Cuba only through the conga and the rhumba — dances whose very names show their African origin. But if we ever know the history of the Negro in this hemisphere, we'll have to study what has been done by the unconquerable Negro of Cuba.

Six Negro Solons

Atlanta Daily World

Elected In Cuba

Atlanta, Ga

HAVANA—(ANP)— In the recent election held in Cuba, the Negro population played an important part. Of the 36 senators elected to serve four year terms, six were Negroes. During the incumbency of President Fulgenio Batista there were two Negro senators.

The six Negro senators are: Senator Aquilino Lombard, representing Matanzas Province; Dr. Miguel Copedas, LasCillas Province; Salvador Garcia Aquere, Havana, (Communist); Manuel Capestany Las Villas province; Marcelino Garriga, P. del Rio Province and Caesar Villas, Orient province.

Senators Lombard and Cepedos belong to the party of the new president, Dr. Gran San Martin. The party is named "Authentic." San Martin is rather popular as he has fathered legislation helpful to small farmers in the past.

One third of Cuba's population of 4,959,000 is colored. Cuba prides itself as having grown since May 20, 1902, when the United States helped her to win independence, into the fifth largest buyer of U. S. goods in the world. American citizens have 914,000,000 invested in Cuba, the third largest investment in any country abroad. 6-18-44

Cuba produces 50 per cent of the sugar of the world. Many Negro workers are engaged in the production of sugar.

Cubans Gloomy Over Election of Dr. Grau

Afro American — Baltimore, Md.

8-26-44

By MERCER COOK

HAVANA, Cuba. — Almost without exception, colored Cubans with whom I have talked consider the election of Dr. Grau San Martin with ominous misgivings. The vast majority of them—liberals and socialists— are still stunned by the defeat of Dr. Saladrigas, Batista's choice for the post.

They point out that Grau's party, the Autenticos, has no important colored men in its inner circle. Its program, often summarized in the vague term "Cubanidad," promises no specific rectification of injustices to brown and black Cubans.

In Working Class

Obviously, if Grau helps the workers, colored Cubans will profit, for most of them belong to that class. But, most oppressed of all the Cuban underprivileged, they feel that special measures must be taken in their behalf.

Moreover, the political party that has been most active for the black man on this island has been the Communists (recently renamed Socialists). As soon as Grau was elected than he attacked this group. 8-26-44

The reaction was so strong that threats of a forthcoming revolution were heard.

To smooth the troubled waters, President-elect Grau received a delegation of the Cuban Federation of Labor, headed by brown-skinned socialist representative, Lazaro Pena, secretary-general of that organization.

Not Welcomed as Members

Grau promised the workers every consideration, but stated explicitly that he welcomed them as workers and not as members of the Socialist Party.

Whatever may be said against Batista—and his faults are legion —he gave more government jobs to colored Cubans than any previous president. His enemies sometimes attributed this to his alleged mulatto origin. At one time, there were two colored ministers in his cabinet: Vasconcelos and Acosta, and one under-secretary, Migue Angel Cespedes.

Now, with Batista about to go, our Cuban friends are wondering what will happen to their jobs. Although Cuban law prohibits all-white or all-colored political parties, colored voters constituted a very small minority of Grau's supporters. 8-26-44

Of the country's outstanding colored leaders, only one, Miguel Angel Cespedes, belongs to Grua's Autenticos, and he is a last minute convert. The Grau forces made him a candidate for senator in the province of Santa Clara, and he ran a badly beaten last. He may be rewarded with a position in the new cabinet, but that is at least doubtful.

In Grau's Camp

Two other colored Cubans, of lesser reputation, are in the Grau camp. One is Representative Aguilino Lombard, of Matanzas, who, like Cespedes, was defeated for senator in the June 1 elections.

man's merit counted for more than his money. Contrast this situation with that of a recently elected senator (white) from Matanzas, who spent $250,000 on his campaign, and then obtained but 24,000 votes! 8-26-44

There seems to be some hope when 138,480 cast their ballot for a fearless but impecunious brown-skinned socialist.

Other recently elected colored Cubans outside of Grau's party include Senator Manuel Capestany, of Santa Clara, former under-secretary of justice, and Senator Marcelino Garriga, of Pinar del Rio. Both belong to the liberal party, and have wide reputations.

Whether these isolated instances of political victory will mean much or little to the colored Cuban is an open question. In Cuba, as elsewhere in Latin-America, the president wields tremendous authority. What Grau thinks about the race problem will probably have much more weight than the opinions of individual congressmen.

Economic Difficulties

On the other hand, there are many signs that the new admin-

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istration will not have smooth sailing. The coalition opposition will have a majority of fifty-one in the House of Representatives and sixteen in the Senate, though Grau will probably win over some of these. 8-26-44

Economic difficulties are also facing the president-elect. Recently, for example, no street cars were running. All the employees went at the palace asking Batista to decree a forty per cent general increase in salaries.

Attempts are also being made to discredit Grau by estranging the U.S. and this country on the issue of the price of Cuban sugar.

In the opinion of some, Batista is remaining in the background and planning a come-back. Rumor has it that millionaire and millionaire-maker Bastista is a very-lonely man these days, deserted by most of those he helped to fortune.

To his everlasting credit, he gave this country the refreshing spectacle of a free and honest general election, though some of his opponents say he did so only because he was certain that his candidate, Saladrigas, would win.

Elect Six Negro Solons In Cuba

Courier — Pittsburgh, 6-24-44 Pa.

HAVANA, Cuba—(ANP)—In the recent election held in Cuba the Negro population played an important part. Of the 36 Senators elected to serve four-year terms, six were Negroes. During the incumbency of President Fulgencio there were two Negro Senators.

The six Negro Senators are: Aquilino Lombard, representing Matanzas province; Dr. Miguel Angel Cepedes, LasCillas Province; Salvador Garcia Aquore, Havana, (Communist); Manuel Capostany, Las Villas province; Marceline Garriga, P. del Rio Province and Caesar Villas, Orienta province.

Cuban Sports Commentator Sets At Rest Some Reports That Negroes Are Barred

12-30-44

Amsterdam News — New York, N. Y.

Maximo Sanchez Gives First-Hand Picture of How Cuban Winter League Integrated Colored Ballplayers

by MAXIMO SANCHEZ

HAVANA, CUBA—Just a few days ago I opened, as usual, several American papers on my desk, and among them was a copy of the Philadelphia Independent. Right away I perused the sports pages of that newspaper and looked attentively on the date—it read Sunday, Nov. 26, 1944. What first struck my attention was a bold face type title line which was worded as follows: "WINTER LEAGUE BASEBALL STARTS ON COAST AND CUBA." To the left of it was a column written just in the same style, and it bore the columnists's name.

When I started out writing for publication I was told to be well informed and to be a wide reader before attempting to write, and since then that has been my end and aim; but this time, on reading that copy of the Philadelphia Independent, I nearly changed my mind. 12-30-44

First of all, who told him that the Cuban Winter League bars race players from the States? Where did he get that news from? Beyond any doubt, this gentleman has never been in Cuba. He should try to drop around here and see; or otherwise, he must learn Spanish in order to read the Cuban newspapers. If he does, he will write nonsense no more.

The Almendares Club counts on the following colored players — Claro Duany, of the New York Cubans; Avelino Canizares; Santos Amaro; Hector Rodriguez; "Chiflan" Clark, Leovigildo Lugo Xiques and Armando Vazquez, both played for the Clowns this year. The Havana Reds is composed of Carlos Blanco; R. Linares, of the New York Cubans; Herberto Blanco; Manuel "Cocaina" Carcrcia. The Cienfuegos is made up of these players of the black race—Pedro Pages; Conrado Perez; Pedro Formental; Silvio Garcia, a beloved and very popular player; Alex Crespo; A. Aragon; the American McDuffy, and lots of others.

Moreover, doesn't he know that Martin Dihigo and Lazaro Salazar, two outstanding Cuban colored players, are playing in the league? And it is a matter of fact that colored players of American nationality are being used in Cuba right now, although the Cuban clubs cannot afford paying them the high salary they ask.

Who told him that Martin Dihigo is the manager of the Havana Reds? Mike Gonzalez, a former Big League catcher and now a coach of the St. Louis Cardinals, is the pilot of the Reds, and it has been his job in Cuba for more than 20 years. The champion batter in the Mexican League was Sagua Hernandez, a Cuban player of the Havana Reds, instead of Bill Wright, as the columnist stated in his article. Besides, he says that Leovigildo Lugo, a member of the Ethiopians Clowns, bears the name of Leovigilde Signes. No, sir; the former is his own name. The latter is a free English translation.

A next paragraph says: "The Cuban situation is more complex White minor league stars will be substituted for the regular group of colored players who have visited the island in the past if present plans go through. This plan is not meeting with the approval of the fans according to some very close to the scene." And now, dear reader I tell you frankly; it is a riddle which I cannot unravel.

On referring to the Havana Reds he writes: "Other members of the squad unknown thus far in the States are Salvador Hernandez, Herbert and Carlos Blanche, L. Davenport, R. Navarro and Pedro Jimenez." That's funny, indeed. That writer is unaware of real sports news. In the first place, Salvador Hernandez was a backstop of the Chicago Cubs before leaving the States to play in the Mexican League . . . and L. Davenport is an American native and was a manager of a Negro club the past season. And with respect to Pedro Jinenez, this player was a minor league hurler the last season. 12-30-44

Julio Alsonso and "Atares" Garcia, two semi-pro players, are not playing in the Cuban Winter League; both are now playing semi-pro ball in Mexico. Thus, I would suggest this "well-informed" columnist not to copy news so badly; instead, he must learn Spanish and understand English rightly. Then, to be sure, he will not be telling that hurler Thomas de la Cruz played with the New York Puerto Rican Stars, before joining the Cincinnati Reds of the National League.

The Negro In Latin America

Amsterdam News — New York, N.Y.

BY HAROLD PREECE

8-26-44

Festival of Freedom

Cuba's Spanish-speaking Negro farmers will have something extra special to celebrate when the holiday season of the comparsa rolls around, next year. N.Y. Amst

The friendly mambises (Afro-Cuban word for Negroes) will be mighty happy that the stirring songs and dances of the comparsa festival of freedom are being brought to their black brothers of the United States—as they have already been brought by Cuban entertainers in Africa to their black brothers of the tribes who, it is said, recognized the comparsa tunes as their own.

One of the United States' most informed authorities on Cuban culture—Mrs. Mariana Beeching de Priesto of Miami, Florida—has just sent me a striking cartoon from the Cuban magazine, Carteles. The cartoon shows some Cuban Negroes entertaining an audience of American soldiers in Africa with tambourines and the Cuban instrument, the gourd imported from Africa.

Two African Negroes, dressed in the scant native garb, are standing under a tree, listening to the familiar music but wondering at the strange clothes worn by the Cuban black musicians. One of the African Negroes is represented as saying to the other that he recognizes the music of these other Negroes — but "well, I don't know to what tribe they could belong."

Comparsa Music Hit

When the comparsa music hits Broadway in the Afro Cuban revue that the Cuban Tourist Commission is planning to stage there, next winter, American Negroes will recognize many of the tunes—our music, too, is a heritage from old Mother Africa bequeathed to her children in exile. But we'll have no difficulty in recognizing the tribe—because its our tribe of freedom which produced the Negro slave leader, Nat Turner in Virginia, and the Negro slave leader, Manzana, in Cuba.

"During the days of slavery, the masters during Lent turned over Havana to the slaves for a week: that was the origin of the comparsa," so Mrs. Priesto told me when she visited by phone in this town recently. Mrs. Priesto prefers this spelling of the historic Cuban festival to the one of "cumparsa" used by Variety, the magazine of the American show business. It is a treat to talk to this brilliant young woman who is married to a Cuban artist, Martin Priesto, and who writes regularly on Latin American subjects for the Pan-American Monthly, Famous Features, the New York Mirror and other publications.

Perhaps, the comparsa originally served as a safety valve to put the lid on the many slave rebellions that boiled up in Cuba from the introduction of slavery about 1523 until gradual emancipation in 1886. "But, every year, about the end of February," Mrs. Priesto relates, "the Festival of Freedom comes to be a celebration of deliverance from slavery."

"Then the streets are alive with Negroes, dressed in colorful Afro-Cuban costumes, dancing, shouting, and singing songs in the Afro-cuban dialect called nanigo. Groups of people dance down the streets, carrying long poles from which are suspended huge lanterns called farrors. The farros bob up and down to the steps of the dancers."

"Other merrymakers carry small lanterns which they twirl and spin around tops as they dance. In that week of the comparsa, every avenue is alive with light, color, and rhythm as the merrymakers parade around in their holiday clothes with their holiday lanterns."

"Talk about the way American girls dress themselves up," Mrs. Prieto laughed. "Wait till you go to a comparsa and see a sight that makes Fifth Avenue' annual Easter Parade look pretty drab."

Jamaicans Resist Jim Crow Tactics

Defender — Chicago, Ill. 5-20-44

KINGSTON, Jamaica—(ANP) — Prompt protest over the attempt by Yankees to introduce jim crow tactics in this area was made recently in the Isle of Springs here. Help was wanted at the USO maintained for soldiers by the Americans. An advertisement was inserted in the Gleaner, local publication in which applicants were limited to "white." The word was eliminated the very next day because of the violent indignation created. The corporation council took the matter up and made complaints in both London and Washington about it.

Nearby in Antigua, an island also under British control, Americans are operating jim crow buses, vehicles upon which people of color are prohibited from riding. Antiguans permit these buses to ply all about St. John's practicing discrimination without protesting.

FRENCH WEST INDIES

Tribune-Philadelphia, Pa.

(For Continental Features)
By HAROLD PREECE

If American movie goers ever get tired of synthetic celluloid queens like Betty Grable and Lana Turner, they can find new idols of the screen among the the beautiful Negro girls of the French West Indies. 3-11-44

We owe Alexander Dumas and his books to the union of a French aristocrat with a slave girl by the name of Louise-Cesette, grandmother of the great Negro author who has been translated into virtually every living language. Such has been the charm of these girls that the aristocracy of the island traces it decent from French nobility on one side and from slaves brought to serve those noblemen on the other.

Some day, too, the fashion expert of Fifth Avenue will be sailing down to these haunting, friendly islands to copy the styles of dress which are traditional among the native women.

Helen Augur, a distinguished American journalist, paid tribute to the love of color and design so characteristic of these French speaking Negro women in the Aug., 1942, issue of Tomorrow Magazine. She said in part:

"The blacker Martiniqueans—and since the abolition of slavery, which came before ours, they have rapidly increased—are not only beautiful, but they are hard-working. In the cane fields men with machetes cut the stalk, which the women and boys strip of the outer leaves which are saved for thatching and fodder, and then load the cane in ox-carts. 3-11-44

"All painters who can tear themselves away from Mexico should go to Martinique and Guadeloupe, for here the brilliant black skins of the natives and the white of the men's field clothes furnish the counterpart for the tender green of the cane fields and the pink, red ochre of the women's dresses. In the sun they wear huge straw hats, bigger than men's. In the towns they wear the lovely Madras.

"The Madras is part of the most exotic costume in all the West Indies. It is a kerchief of India cotton, usually yelow or green in tone, which is intricately wound around the head in a fashion no amount of summer practice can teach American woman. As the winding ends, the last corner is twisted into a 'donkey's ear,' which may form a cockade at the front, or the back, or an odd angle, but which is always at the most becoming point.

"Fantasy and an almost Parisian chic comes out in the Madras. Once I saw a woman coming down the green mountain to market, and she had slipped into the top folds of her turban two pale green fresh artichokes from the flat garden basket balanced on her head. The Rue de la Paix never turned out a hat to compare with it."

But the French West Indies—Martinique, and Guadeloupe: a territorial name for Basse-Terre, Grand-Terre, and five small islands are more than enchanting places inhabited by beautiful black and brown peoples. The French West Indies with their approximately 600,000 population—ninety per cent of them colored—are our allies in this peoples war and have been our allies since the beginning of the war in 1939. 3-11-44

The friendly people of the French West Indies knew that it would be only a matter of time when their neighbor, the United States, would be in the war. These allies might live on to total area of 900 square miles while our country spreads out an area of 3,000,000 miles. But they knew the score and they were determined to keep that score on our side.

We know now that Martinique would have been used as a Nazi base to have attacked the whole Western hemisphere had it not been for the check that the people kept on their Vichy French governor, Admiral Robert. Negro civic leaders of Martinique were keenly aware that their island was like a dagger pointing toward the Panama Canal, but they twisted the dagger around and pointed it at the heart of Admiral Robert. 3-11-44

Robert's final capitulation to the Allies was due to his wholesome fear of the island's black democrats. They were starving because the war sopped the shipment of meats and vegetables to their islands where sugar is the dominant crop but they held on. They were sick and tired of the Vichy French and they were ready to say it with lead when Robert finally came to terms shortly after the American invasion of North Africa. 3-11-44

But this is not the first time that the French West Indies have come to America's assistance in America's hour of need. During our revolutionary War, 200 privateer ships were built for us each year in Bermuda and then smuggled to us through the good offices of the French Governor-General, the Marquis de Bouille.

Negro longshoremen from Martinique help load these ships, full of ammunition for the rebellious Americans in the Dutch port of St. Eustatius which is a short distance from Martinique. Crews of French, Spanish, and Negro sailors brought these vessels safely into American port.

"The point is that we got a republic," say Miss Augur. . . "Without laboring the point, history has fascinating spirals, and once more the hidden loop is held in the brown slender hands of Martinique. |

For the French West Indies look forward to the day when political democracy will be restored all over the earth and in their islands where black men have played distinguished parts as members of two councils and of the insular legislatures, as senators and deputies (representatives) in the pre-war French parliament. 3-11-44

For the white French rulers learned well the lesson of Haiti when that Negro republic broke away from the owning country in 1791. They extended a workable system of autonomy to the black people of the French West Indies so that black people made the local laws and black people represented the island in Paris.

There were seven Negro members of Parliament when France fell in 1940—five of them from the French West Indies and two of them from Africa. For 150 years, Negroes have always been members of that legislative body, having full voice and vote with the other representatives of the French Nation.

The legislative and municipal councils are still almost wholly Negro.

It is not improbable that the coming renaissance of the West Indian peoples—whether they live under the French, British, Dutch, or America flags—may not find its core, from an artistic and literary standpoint, in the French West Indies.

Every school child in the islands can tell you the story of Alexander Dumas, the quadroon, who has enriched world literature, with the "Three Musketeers," "The Count of Monte Cristo," and other novels which are part of the cultural heritage of Western civilization. They also know about his son, Alexander Dumas the Younger, who followed in the footsteps of his illustrious father. 3-11-44

As I write this, the cultural heritage of French-speaking Haiti is beginning to make itself felt in these islands. The great Haitian author, Jacques Roumain, now serving his country as Ambassador to Mexico, is a popular favorite among the younger people while young poets read the works and follow the literary models of Haiti's greatest poet, Oswald Durand.

We need to become acquainted with the French West Indies as we need to become acquainted with all of our Latin-American neighbors who are proud of the part that the Negro has played in the building of Latin-American civilization.

This series on "The Negro in Latin America" ends with this article. The author hopes that it will spur his readers to greater study and greater appreciation of the part played by Negroes in the building and the development of a New World which, inevitably if slowly, will set a pattern for the development of a democratic, fraternal world civilization.

56L-1944

HAITI AGREES TO STATE DEPT. COLOR EDICT

Defender
Chicago, Ill
1-22-44

Diplomatic Staff Now All Light-Complexioned Or White Americans

(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON—Bowing to U. S. State Department prejudice, officials of the little black republic of Haiti have ordered home all dark-complexioned diplomats and are replacing them with mulattoes "who can pass" or with white Americans in some cases!

The Chicago Defender learned this week from highly confidential and authoritative sources that the discriminatory policy has been in effect for several months.

There is no written agreement — merely a verbal understanding which representatives of both countries have agreed to and which carefully defines the complexion of Haitians to be accredited to the United States.

This policy is being carried out under the pretext that dark Haitians create embarrassing social problems in this country.

It is charged that the American State Department officials most responsible for this discriminatory understanding are Lawrence Duggan, chief of the division of Latin American Affairs, and Willard Barber, assistant chief of the same division, who are directly in charge of United States relations with Haiti. 1-22-44

Hull Stand Not Known

Whether they are acting on instructions from Secretary of State Cordell Hull, or merely on their own authority, is not yet known.

It is known, however, that Barber, who does most of the work of the division since Duggan is suffering from a malignant disease, is a personal friend of Jacque Antoine, Under-Secretary of State for Haiti and member of the mulatto oligarchy.

A survey of the "color pattern" of the diplomatic and consular agents from Haiti on duty in this country tells its own story. Here is the Haitian diplomatic personnel and its complexion:

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Andre Liautoud (Ambassador). Light complexion. His father was a white Frenchman who made his home in Haiti.

Roche La Roche (Military Attache). Light-complexion.

Elie Garcia (1st Sec. of Embassy). Light-complexion.

Daniel Theard (2nd Sec. of Embassy). Light-complexion.

Cleante Anteaud (Sec. to the Ambassador). Light-complexion.

Louise Morance (Secretary). White.

NEW YORK CITY

Dr. Rulx Leon (Consul Gen.). Light-complexion. 1-22-44

Yzves Verna (Vice Consul). Light-complexion.

Henri Rosemond (Attache). Black-complexion.

Louise Ripko (Secretary). White.

PHILADELPHIA

Louis Elson (Consul). White.

MIAMI

Paul Curtis (Consul). White.

BOSTON

Herbert Clark (Consul). White.

NEW ORLEANS

Fernand Le Bosse (Consul). White.

BALTIMORE

Felix Martin (Consul). Light-complexion.

This survey shows that with the exception of Rosemond, attache in New York, all the other representatives in this country are either light-complexioned, or as they are in the south, white Americans. It is rumored that Rosemond is soon to be recalled under the terms of the understanding.

Haiti Social Chasm

That the Haitian government has acquiesed in the State Department's demands for a color bar in its diplomatic service is not surprising, for the history of the country is replete with incidents which indicate that there is a wide social chasm between mulattoes and blacks. The mulattoes, though outnumbered by a ratio of 10 to 1, have constituted the governing class since 1915, largely through the support of the American government.

The last black to head the country's government was President Velbrun Sam who was assassinated in 1915 as he sought asylum in the French legation at Port-au-Prince. Shortly afterward American marines occupied Haiti. The American government has dominated Haitian foreign policy ever since.

Informed observers claim that mulattoes could not now stay in power if it were not for State Department support. Dark-complexioned Haitians are reported to be highly incensed over this American-Haitian "color bar" understanding, for while the mulattoes are getting the important government posts, practically all of the intellectuals with international reputation are in the darker group. They realize that there is little they can do to change the situation as long as President Lescot has the American government behind him.

Maintain Color Bar

On his recent visit to the United States, President Lescot, who is a light reddish-brown, vigorously adhered to the "color line." He was the darkest member of his party. During his tour of Canada, an American Negro newspaper correspondent, Ralph Matthews of the Afro-American, was openly insulted by his secretary. At the beginning of a press conference, Matthews was asked by the secretary to leave under pretext that his presence might prove embarrassing to the president. 1-22-44

The record of the American State Department on the color question has long been a black one. American Negroes when returning from abroad prior to the present war, consistently reported discourteous treatment at our consulate offices.

Not even Brazil who boasts of its non-discriminatory policies, has dared to accredit a dark-complexioned diplomat to the United States. Informed Brazilians claim that the prejudice of American diplomats has made their government hesitant about sending dark diplomats abroad and thereby has retarded their progress in the foreign service.

Haiti

Dustin' off the NEWS

Defender - Chicago, Ill.

By LUCIUS C. HARPER

2-5-44

WHY THE COLOR QUESTION IN HAITI SERVES A PURPOSE

THERE IS LITTLE to be surprised at the attitude of certain classes of Haitians bowing to the U. S. state department in its cunning demand that all dark-complexioned diplomats of the little Black Republic be summoned home from our shores only to be replaced with mulattoes "who can pass." or with white Americans in some cases. There is no written agreement, however, on this color issue in high diplomatic circles we are told—merely a verbal understanding which representatives of both countries have agreed to and which carefully defines the complexion of Haitians to be accredited to the United States. We are advised further that this policy is being carried out under the pretext that dark Haitians create embarrassing social problems in this country. Of course behind all of this mildewed pap, the real issue is being smothered and probably cleverly concealed. This colorphobia program fits in rather snugly with America's idea to exploit the Haitians for the latter's benefit, and to keep the Republic in social and political unrest. It has been forever thus.

L. C. Harper

America first inaugurated the color issue into Haiti when President Benjamin Harrison appointed Frederick Douglass Minister Resident and Consul General to that country in 1889. At that time the Clyde steamship line was attempting to get exclusive concessions in its harbors. Following this, America dispatched Rear Admiral Bancroft Gherardi, as a special commissioner with a fleet of ships and two thousand Marines—over the head of Minister Douglass — to wrest from the Haitians a naval base at Mole St. Nicholas. Both were tricks cleverly devised by political and business interests in America to rob Haiti of self-determination, which, at the time was rebuilding itself from the Legitime revolution, placing the insurgent Florvil Hyppolite as president of the Black Republic. In both steals, Mr. Douglass, as a conscientious and honest representative, stood in the way, and finally blocked, though it brought upon him scandalous attacks and criticisms from the colorphobia crowd in America.

* * *

THE NEW YORK PRESS, backed by the monied interests, brought in the color question. It attempted, and succeeded to some degree, to divide the Haitians on the question, telling them that a white American could serve both countries better, and that the Haitians should consider it an insult for this country to dispatch a black man, an ex-slave, as its Consul General. Later the Haitians found out that certain influential merchants in New York could not bribe Mr. Douglass to work in conjunction with their schemes. The Clyde firm sent a white South Carolinian to stir up color issues and oppose Mr. Douglass, who thwarted his every attempt. Finally defeated, the Carolinian stated that he was going to demand of the Haitian government pay for his time in dallying with it over the concession. This demand struck Mr. Douglass as very odd, and he jocosely replied: "Then, sir, as they will not allow you to put a hot poker down their backs you mean to make them pay for heating it!" And he did make them pay: the Carolinian got five thousand dollars in gold from Haiti for being turned down on his proposal. 2-5-44

During the Wilson administration, the U. S. state department still kept the color issue alive in Haiti. Major Adam Patterson, now a Chicago lawyer, but then of Oklahoma, was recommended by Senator Gore of Oklahoma and William G. McAdoo for the post of Minister to Haiti in payment for his political services to the Democratic party. Patterson was one of the first nationally known Negro Democrats. When his name was about to go to the senate for confirmation, William Jennings Bryan, then Secretary of State under Woodrow Wilson, summoned Patterson and asked him to withdraw: that he would much prefer him to accept the portfolio as Minister to Liberia. Asked why, Bryan boldly stated that the administration was under an ironclad promise to the National City Bank of New York to appoint a white man to Haiti because of what it was going to attempt to wrest from the Haitians through rather unsavory methods, it believed a colored consul general was not likely to view with favor. Patterson refused to accept the Liberian post, Dr. Curtis of Washington, was sent there; and true to arrangement, Blanchard, a white southern Democrat of New Orleans La., was sent to Haiti. Shortly thereafter the New York monied interest began to float Haitian bonds on a proposed railroad project in the Black Republic. And payment was sure, because the U. S. state department saw to it that General Smedley Butler moved in on the Haitians with his Marines to put down a "revolution," in which the Haitian patriot, Charlemagne (styled a bandit by the American Press) was subdued and finally murdered.

* * *

THESE TACTICS wrested authority from the black Haitians and placed into office mulattoes—high caste Haitians—and American whites. The political puppet of the New York merchants came into political power in Haiti—President Borno, who ruled as long as American bayonets were pointed at his subjects. When peace was restored and the black and browns of the little Republic regained some space of political authority, President Borno thought it wise and healthier to leave the island and establish a law practice and residence in Paris. 2-5-44

True are the words of Toussaint L'Ouverture, black liberator, who when arming his soldiers to bring freedom from white oppression to Haiti, said: "I arm you my fellow-countrymen to bring you liberty; whoever takes this weapon from you will enslave you!" Mulatto Haitians and white Americans have taken those weapons from the black Haitians, and what L'Ouverture prophesied has about come to pass.

'Just Coincidence,' Claims Haiti Envoy Here

Defender-Chicago, Ill. 1-29-44

On All-Mulatto Diplomatic Staff Now

By HARRY McALPIN
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON.—Dark-skinned Haitians, who are in the vast majority in that island republic, are unqualified and lack merit of diplomatic posts.

Such seems to be the theory behind the practice of the black republic to staff its diplomatic posts.

Admitting that public opinion in naming virtually all mulattoes and white Americans to this country, Haitian diplomat to the U.S. except single embassy was "purely coincidental" Haiti's Ambassador Andre Liautaud told this re-

Black Population

Liautaud's claim that the almost lily-white color scheme of Haiti's embassy was "purely coincidental" seemed strange in view of the fact that more than 95 per cent of Haiti's population is black, while the mulatto element, which is light-skinned, has been getting all the diplomatic posts.

"men are picked on their ability and that is all." 1-29-44

He did not add—but the corollary was clear—that evidently men of ability are not found among black-skinned Haitians, since light-complexioned men have been getting all the diplomatic posts.

ti's population is black.

Liautaud—who it is difficult to distinguish from a white person—denied that there is an understanding between his country and the State Department that only Haitians light enough to pass would be assigned to diplomatic posts here because of possible social embarrassments. He said the story is "so ridiculous that no one can believe a thing like that." He branded the story "fantastic."

When asked how he accounted for the fact that the list of the Haitian diplomatic representatives in this country shows all but one to be light-complexion he said: "That is only a coincidence. Haiti is a colored republic and no such policy could be tolerated."

Willard Barber, assistant chief of the State Department's division of Inter-American Affairs, told the Defender that the statement that there is such an agreement is incorrect. He said he has never heard of any such thing, and can say that it is definitely inaccurate and incorrect. 1-29-44

It is reported, by an authoritative source, that the policy is one that has been pushed by Mr. Barber, as pointed out in the Defender's exclusive story of last week.

Despite these denials, however, the fact remains that of the many Haitian representatives in this country, at the embassy in Washington and in the consulates in other cities, all but one of them are light-complexioned or white. The one dark-complexioned representative is reported to be scheduled for recall to Haiti.

That there is a problem in this country for Haitians of darker hue was highlighted last week before the International Education Conference sponsored by the Greater Boston Teachers' round-table of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Council Against Intolerance in America, in Boston.

Lawyer Ejected

Prof. Howard E. Wilson of the American Council on Education, Washington, told the conference the story of how a young Haitian lawyer, visiting the United States under State Department auspices, was recently ejected from a Boston hotel and forced to pay three times the rate charged white men in second-rate rooming houses.

Hotel arrangements for the Haitian (of dark hue) had been made, but when he appeared, a clerk refused to admit him, and even would not give him messages left at the hotel asking him to get in touch with the Pan-American Society of Massachusetts, which was directing his tour of the area. 1-29-44

The experiences of the State Department in trying to arrange hotel accommodations in Washington last July for the official representatives of Ethiopia here for the Food Conference are cited as lending credence to the story that a "lily-white" Haitian contingent is being urged.

HAITIAN COLOR BAR

Defender-Chicago, Ill. 2-19-44

Sensational expose of the color bar in the Haitian diplomatic service by The Chicago Defender brings to light a deplorable state of affairs in this little black republic off the southeastern shores of the United States.

For while better than 90 per cent of Haitian are dark-complexioned, this group has been eliminated from serving their country in posts of honor abroad, especially in the western hemisphere.

Yet it was these very blacks who spilled their blood in wrenching Haiti free from European control during the first part of the 18th century. They are the ones who sacrificed their lives to give their country the right to be listed among the independent states of the world.

Now these blacks are once again threatened with subjugation. This time by a small mulatto-white oligarchy of their own countrymen whose strength lies in the support they receive from powerful and mighty America. For without this support the "color-crazed" government of President Lescot could not stay in power.

Thus we see the operation of imperialism at its worst. A country prostituted, betrayed and shorn of its honor, by a ruling clique of "home-town boys" who have succumbed to the racial bias of their neighbor, in order to appease and humor her. 2-19-44

While the American State Department is equally guilty with the Haitian government for establishing this policy, to Lescot accrues the greater shame. For Negro blood courses through his veins—blood of which the history of his country should make him justly proud.

But men the world over have been known to sacrifice principles and honor for a momentary gain.

Haiti President Thanks Queen

Daily World—Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON—(S N S)—President Elie Lescot of Haiti, who recently returned from a visit to Curacao, has sent a message to Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands at London thanking her for the message she sent to welcome him to Willemstad, the Netherlands- Information Bureau told the Office of War Information this week. The message said: 7-22-44

"Profoundly touched by the honor which Your Majesty has done me in addressing a kind telegram of welcome on the occasion my visit to the territory of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at Curacao, where I was so warmly received by the worthy representative of Your Majesty, I hasten to renew on this occasion the sentiments of solidarity which spur the Government and the people of Haiti toward Your Majesty and Her people, and to testify our admiration for the example of courage and will shown by the great sovereign of the Netherlands in the grave hours witnessed by humanity. May Your Majesty accept the token of my respect and my undying friendship."

Lescot upon his arrival in Port au Prince told a large gathering of military, diplomatic, clerical and Government officials that "I am happy and proud of the honors rendered to my country" in Curacao, where he spent the week-end as an official guest of the Netherlands Government. 7-22-44

All Haitian newspapers published enthusiastic comment on the President's visit. Editor Fouchard, of the Haiti Journal, who accompanied the President as a member of the official press mission, in a long account mentional especially the fact that the flag of Haiti flew over the roof of the Government mansion. He mentioned the dinner given by Dr. Adolphe Desertine, judge of the Curacoa Justice Court, and that Ernesto Martijn, consul-general for Haiti in Curacao, has placed 15 Haitians in positions in Curacao. 7-22-44

'White Cabinet' Imposes Rigid Haiti Color Line

Defender — Chicago, Ill. 2-26-44

By FRED ATWATER
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON. — A rigid color line, not much different than Jim Crow in Mississippi, is the law of the land in the little black republic of Haiti today.

Enforced with an iron hand through the dictatorship of the powerful "white cabinet" that has seized the reins of government, the unwritten color laws have the effect of dooming black Negroes to the lowest type of common labor and a poverty-stricken existence in the island.

In social life, color bars keep dark complexioned Haitians out of the finest clubs and institutions. Typical are the Cercle Bellevue and Cercle Port-Au-Princien, which will not admit any Haitians except whites or mulattoes, unless they accidentally hold a prominent government position. But once they lose these posts—and they are being excluded as fast as "yellow" replacements can be found—they are ousted by these exclusive clubs.

Only three blacks are known to be members of these clubs but only because of their prominence in island life. They are the well-known educator, Dr. Price Mars, Alfred Vieux and Stephen Alexi, the playboy newspaper reporter. 2-26-44

Rule by 50 Families

Rule by color has extended its tentacles into every phase of island life since 1936 when the so-called "50 mulatto families" virtually blackjacked President Stenio Vincent into acceptance of their program for "whitening" Haiti.

When Vincent was first elected in 1930, he refused to cooperate with the "white cabinet"—at that time holding the business and financial reins rather than control of the government. But by 1936 the aspiring, ambitious "white cabinet" was in a position to drive a hard bargain with Vincent, since he needed their support for re-election.

Prior to 1936, he had a black man as secretary of treasurer. He was Christian LaPorte, who was later ousted. The president of the Supreme Court was black too. He was Ernest Douyon, who after his appointment shied away from all black persons and played along with the "white cabinet."

To win support of the "50 mulatto families," Vincent agreed to give all big cabinet posts and all diplomatic posts to mulattoes.

Since that time the "white cabinet" has assumed full control and in the administration of President Elie Lescot has complete rule over the government. 2-26-44

Reaches into U. S.

Their rule reaches out into distant diplomatic posts and is felt here in the United States. Typical of how they govern by color is the case of Jean Brierre, noted black Haitian poet, who was removed as inspector of schools because he said publicly that these Chicago Defender articles of Haiti were telling the truth.

A few months ago Brierre was at Columbia university in New York on a scholarship for six months. But even in New York he was subjected to the rule by color. He got less money allowance than mulatto students and was not invited as all students to affairs of the Haitian embassy or consulate because of his dark color.

Segregated groups were organized by mulatto students at the International House and the Clermont hotel.

Some 90 per cent of all Haitian students sent to the U. S. and Canada on scholarships are mulatto.

Haitian FBI

Another instance of how the color line works is that of Lt. Maurice Buteau of the Haitian Guard, known for years as one of the cleverest criminologists on the island. He is quite dark and has never been able to rise in rank because of his color.

Rather than promote Lieutenant Buteau, President Lescot has named his own New York Police academy for one year. He returned to Haiti last December with several certificates of merit but he is still an ordinary lieutenant. 2-26-44

He was sent to New York recently on a scholarship to study at the three special FBI agents are due soon in Washington to study with Hoover and take back to Haiti the Haitian constitution changing the term of office, President Elie Lescot took the oath of office for a new seven-year term on Monday, May 15. The constitutional amendment also allowed a concession to women to hold public office.

Four weeks ago the national assembly, which is a meeting of the two houses of government, met and amended the constitution embodying the changes. Lescot had been elected in 1946. The changes to have expired in 1946. The changes elected terminated his present term with two years to go, and permitted him to continue in office for his first full term of seven years.

Before the change, he would have been free to hold a second term of five years. The change still permits him to hold another term, but should he run for re-election in 1951 and succeed, it will mean that Lescot will have served as president for 17 years. 5-27-44

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President Lescot Takes Oath For 7-Year Term

Defender—Chicago, Ill. 2-26-44

PORT AU PRINCE (Haiti) (ANP)

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President Lescot Takes Oath for New 7-Year Term
Defender—Chicago, Ill. 5-22-44

PORT AU PRINCE (...

561-1944

Haiti

'Quadroon Quislings' Face Revolt In Haiti

Defender—Chicago, Ill.

9-2-44

By HAROLD PREECE

(Last of a Series)

Civil war is brewing between the official Haiti of Wall Street's President Elie Lescot and the real Haiti of the starving Wall street-evicted black peasants.

Government officials in Washington are keeping tight lips on what is going on inside the little Negro republic following the extension of Lescot's term for another seven years by an illegal act of the Haitian parliament.

But it is reported that they are scared to death that tiny Haiti may become the Spain of our hemisphere: that our whole Good Neighbor policy toward Latin America may be shaken by the resentment that would sweep through Latin America because a quarter of a million little farmers were driven from their homes by the Haitian-American Development Corporation which is supposed to be operating under the principles of that policy.

Three Point Program

The Good Neighbor policy is going to be a sunk ship on the rocks of imperialism in mighty quick time unless the United States immediately take these three steps:

1. Withdraws its lend-lease subsidy of Lescot's government, thus allowing the Haitian people to frame a new liberal constitution and peacefully elect a peoples' government under the provisions of that constitution. 9-2-44

2. Cancels the mortgage that the Wall street-controlled Haitian-American Development Corporation holds on the country, and sees to it that the imported Dixie white overseers of the corporation are ordered home.

3. Take immediate steps—either by using lend lease money or funds of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration—to resettle the 250,000 farmers driven from the land when the corporation tried unsuccessfully to grow rubber from the worthless weed, cryptostegia. 9-2-44

If we are to maintain the Good Neighbor policy, if we are to keep our good name among the 100,000,000 Negro-Indian colored people who are the great majority in Latin American, we must see to it that these Haitian colored farmers are also paid for the loss of their houses and fruit trees, that they are given liberal credit to buy tools and work animals for a new start.

Events Since Execution

The Chicago Defender is not talking through Elie Lescot's silk hat when it warns our country that blood is likely to mix with the waters of the Caribbean unless we take time to consider the big problems faced by little people. For we know, from first-hand and reliable sources, what is going on under the ten-cent hat of that typical Haitian whom Dr. Forrest O. Wiggins of North Carolina college for Negroes, typifies as "Henri Noir," the black peasant, who has a cash income of about $20 per year. 9-2-44

We know what we are talking about, because the Chicago Defender has been the only newspaper in the United States to establish and maintain regular contact with the Haitian opposition bloc of all liberal parties. In our August 5 issue, we revealed exclusively the massacre of 21 high-ranking Haitian military officers by Lescot's government following an assassination attempt upon the president.

The Defender has learned that the following events have taken place during the two months since Lescot's savage purge of June:

Port au Prince is being ransformed into an armed fortress—so it is said with the help of lend-lease money granted originally to improve sanitation, education, and transportation in the country.

Quadroon Quislings

Lescot has put the capital city under the protection of his army-police captains who were trained under Dixie white officers during the U. S. Marine occupation from 1914 to 1934. These quadroon quisslings, who are trained in all the Dixie techniques of holding down the black people, draw wages of $250 per month as against $80 per month for civilian government employees and of $20 per year for Henri, the peasant. Poverty-stricken Haiti supports a combined army-police force of 30,000 men—the Garde d' Haiti were calling them "bandits" and massacreing the patriotic guerrilla bands trying to maintain the nationhood of the oldest, if the smallest, Latin American republic. 9-2-44

President Lescot has increased his own personal guard. He remembers what happened to the late President Guillerme Sam when thousands of people descended upon that bloodthirsty tyrant and tore that tyrant, limb from limb.

Opposition United

All the opposition parties have put aside their personal and political squabbles to unite in a solid "never-surrender" bloc for the overthrow of Lescot and the establishment of a democratic, constitutional government in Haiti. Haiti helped other Latin American countries in their struggle for independence from Spain more than 100 years ago—now this bloc is seeking the support of democratic, anti-fascist groups in these countries. Preservation of the Good Neighbor policy may depend ultimately upon the attitude that similar groups in the United States take toward the Haitian peoples' revolution.

Meanwhile, the gulf is widening between that typical Haitian, Henri Noir, the black peasant, and that other Haitian whom Dr. Wiggins, quoted last week, characterizes as "Pierre Jaune," the aristocrat whose "color is almost white" and whose "brother is marriade to a Belgian girl." 9-2-44

As the Defender pointed out in another series, several months ago, light-colored Haitian "gentlemen" are eager to marry white girls to thin out still further that trickle of black blood, inherited from slavery.

Picture of Elite

Let's take a look at Pierre Jaune through the keen eyes of Dr. Wiggins. I quote from a lecture delivered by Dr. Wiggins at Hampton Institute, after the North Carolina educator had spent several months in that troubled, boiling little country.

Pierre "is a tall, stately person," so Dr. Wiggins describes the typical members of the Haitian 'elite."

"His great grandfather was French. His father was minister to France and was educated in France. During one of the 'revolutions,' when his father was associated with the 'wrong' party, Pierre studied in France, too. 9-2-44

"Before that time, he went to the parochial school where his instruction was in the hands of Catholic priests. Yes, he could have gone to the public school, but there were too many riff-raff there.

"Pierre—got a good education, but what did he study? Mathematics, Greek, Latin, French, and classical literature and art, music, English, and Spanish.—He does not know any sociology or economics, nothing about business or agriculture or engineering. But he can talk about Racine and Euripides and Plato and Aristotle—giving you long quotations from each.

Sharecropper Setup

"After finishing his studies at the lycee (high school), he went to the law school. Law is one of the favorite means of getting into politics and every member of Pierre's class is politically ambitious—mainly aspiring to the presidency for the juiciest political plum, with chances of prestige and power and graft. He has never dreamed of going into business. Although he has a country 'estate,' he seldom visits it, being content to allow sharecroppers to run the place. 9-2-44

"Pierre," says Dr. Wiggins, "has never done a bit of manual work in his life. He has never cleaned his shoes, nor pressed a pair of his trousers, nor swept a room. He would not know which end of a monkey wrench to use if he had occasion for one.

"He really thinks all manual work degrading. For didn't the slaves have to do manual work, and it is only peasants who do it now. Pierre works at the Department of Public Instruction. He owes his job to his having the right kind of a friend to talk for him, but he has no particular training in the field of education. But his father-in-law saw to it that he got the job when he found out that Pierre was interested in his daughter."

Ashamed of Blood

People like Pierre who are "ashamed" of their African blood are the lawyers, doctors, and officials of Haiti, Mr. Wiggins emphasizes. 9-2-44

The quality of their rule can be judged from the fact that "during one election, the government printed two different colored ballots, one blue and the other red." Only the blue ballot of the government party was available at the polling place. If you wanted the red ballot of the opposition party, you had to ask for it at the police station—which meant that the government party won by a landslide.

But if Pierre is stupid and reactionary, his wife is as cruel and lazy as the wife of any Confederate lady in Mississippi—the kind who have plenty of folks around to wait on them.

Mrs. Jaune "is a very charming person," so Dr. Wiggins describes her. "She's very cultured—plays the piano," and like her husband, "speaks excellent French" rather than the African-French dialect of the peasants. "You might call her lazy. She has never as much as fried an egg in her life, nor washed a dish." 9-2-44

"The Jaunes have four servants: a nurse to look after the two children, a cook, a maid, and a combination house and yard boy. You wonder how they can have so many servants when Pierre's salary is only $80 a month."

"No mystery at all. The cook is the only one who gets a salary—$8 per month. The others work for their 'board and room'." Then Dr. Wiggins explains what "board and room" means to dark Negroes working for light Negroes.

"The nurse"—a child of 13—"sleeps on the floor without any cover and no mat. She gets discarded clothes from her mistress. She does not eat what Pierre and his family eat. She gets one meal a day—mainly beans and rice.

"The house boy sleeps in the downstairs hall on the floor. He eats the same as the 'nurse' and the maid. These servants are on call from four to five in the morning until the master and mistress go to bed. Ordinarily they are free on Sunday afternoon." 9-2-44

These servants—you guessed it—are the children of Henri, the black peasant and other peasants like him, who can't feed their offspring on wages of less than two dollars a month. So the children are "given" to people like the Jaunes to be "educated" although the youngsters never get away from their master's house to attend the public schools of a country where education is supposed to be "free and compulsory."

One Meal a Day

Henri, the black man, who is 90 per cent of Haiti's 3,000,000 population "has a rather hard time trying to make ends meet."

"When he gets up in the morning—he generally stops near a sugar cane field, takes his machete or scythe, and cuts off a bit of cane about a yard long. He works all day until about 3 p.m., without having had anything to eat except this piece of sugar cane. Then he comes home, often having to walk five or six miles to get his first and only meal."

Henri "is really not feeling very well these days." 9-2-44

"Malaria is widespread in Haiti.—Henri is also troubled with dysentery." Moreover, "all the children under 12" in his thatched hut "have enormous stomachs filled with worms. Since the children generally go naked and barefooted, it is easy for them to become infected" with these parasites. "If they do not die before they are 12, they finally build enough resistance or immunity to throw off these worms."

Henri "cannot read, for he's never been to school." Unlike Pierre, "he does not speak nor understand French" but only that native dialect called Creole which is part African and partly the old French spoken—of the 16th century. He "has never seen a movie, never had a ride in an automobile, nor heard a radio. He's never owner a pair of shoes but, sometimes on Sunday, he will put on a pair of native sandals."

Henri doesn't vote because no more than 10 per cent of Haitians do take part in the elections—and that's generally the 10 per cent light-skinned upper class. But, Henri knows the name of President Lescot "for the president makes his picture very prominent, naming every public building, or bridge, erected during his administration after himself." 9-2-44

Now, Henri has begun to spit on the picture of the president when a soldier-policeman isn't looking. And that means that plenty of trouble is going to pop mighty soon for President Lescot—and for Wall street.

Haitians Are Doing Things Which We Can Talk About Doing in Future

By IRENE DIGGS 10-13-44

(Junior Roosevelt Fellow of the Institute of International Education)

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—(ANP) — I remember sitting several years ago in a rural school at Red Oak, Ga., 20 miles out from Atlanta, listening to a rather radical speaker who told the audience things that the Negro was going to do in the very near future but here in Port-au-Prince these things are now being done.

We had lunch today with the handsome copper-colored under secretary of state for foreign affairs, Jacque Antoine. The same afternoon assembled a most interesting group of young intellectuals. All these young men appeared to be under 35 years of age. There was an enthnologist, an economist, several poets, writers and journalists.

The following morning we visited the

newspapers of Port-au-Prince. To my consternation we found that Port-au-Prince with a population of 115,000 has five daily papers, which means that the Atlanta Daily World is not the only Negro daily in the world. Beside the dailies there are several weeklies as well as several magazines. I thumbed through a few numbers of the magazine Cahieres and found them very interesting. 10-13-44

Visit Haitian President

One afternoon we were invited to a cocktail party given in the private home of the president of Haiti, Elie Lescot. It is located on one of the high hills in the immediate vicinity of Port-au-Prince. A beautiful winding road leads up to this massive square structure.

The gardens are luxuriant and colorful with bougainville, oleander, roses and many other blooming shrubs.

When it began to rain I had the honor of having the president personally escort me as he led the procession up to the magnificent roof garden with its four distinctly different views of the surrounding country, its tile floors and comfortable furnishings.

Our program of activities was unusually full. It included a ride and visit to the country club. I have been particularly pleased to see how the Haitians are utilizing their unusual gifts of nature; they build their summer homes in the mountains where it is cool enough to sleep under blankets, where it is necessary to wear coats and sweaters.

We spent a week-end in the mountains of Kenscoff, where for the first time in many months I have been cold and I don't mean cool. The Haitians have beautiful and large men's clubs, restaurants and inviting cafes. Invariably the houses and clubs of the elite have gardens, pools, tennis courts, etc.

View Art Exhibition 10-13-44

We were invited by one of the officials in the United States embassy to view the film of President Lescot's visit in Venezuela together with a movie called the "Calvacade of Latin America" filmed and explained by a North American.

They were in technicolor and especially interesting. I don't know when I have been quite as embarrassed and ashamed of the speech of one of my fellow countrymen. Persons who understand English more than reasonably well wished to know what language he was using.

He was also lacking in tact; he made the statement that Pizarro destroyed a civilization in Peru which up to this time had never been replaced. The Peruvian minister and his party got up and walked out. 10-13-44

We spent a very profitable two hours in the Centre d' Art viewing the first exhibition of art in Haiti in 75 years. The president of Haiti and the Haitian-American institute are acting as patrons for this very interesting exhibition.

I liked the water colors and crayons much better than the oils. I was especially interested in the work of Antonio Joseph, 24 years of age, who has only been painting since May of this year and yet has an unusual fine and numerous collection. He was born of Haitian parentage in Santa Domingo, and speaks very little French.

I visited the Museum of Ethnology and Arqueology directed by the mayor of the city and found an interesting collection of African survivals intelligently organized and attractively arranged. In the school of agriculture at Damiens almost every well-known North American college of agriculture was represented by a Haitian graduate.

Visit U. S. Ambassador 10-13-44

On Thursday we had lunch in the spacious and beautifully appointed home of the United States ambassador to Haiti. There was a five o'clock tea in the mountains and dinners in the various cafes. Food and the service in Haiti are good and typically continental French. I don't know when I have had so many good wines and everywhere we went, even for a few moments, the "national drink," cola with the suave and delicious Haitian rum was served.

I was amazed to find such a large number of Haitians who not only speak English but very good English. In practically all the gatherings, English, French and Spanish were heard and not infrequently German. I spent an interesting hour in the class of Mercer Cook, director of the English teaching project under the auspices of the office of the coordinator.

It was a class in American literature and the two book reports were particularly well done Again I was impressed with the extraordinary and unusual ability of Dr. Cook as a teacher of languages. He and his family have so captivated the Haitians with their warmth and charm as now to be considered one of them. 10-13-44

One of the most interesting persons I met in Haiti was Aime Cesaire of Martinique, who has been honored by the Agregation de l'universite de Paris. I am sure we shall hear more of his work soon. At present he is working with the Free French.

Confirm Haitian Revolt, Silent On Assassination Try Of President Lescot

Weekly — New Orleans, La.
8-12-44

Silence Beclouds Rumor Of Attempt On Lescot's Life

World — Memphis, Tenn.
8-11-44

By Ernest E. Johnson

Washington, Aug. 9.—An intermediate but well-informed government source has confirmed that an abortive attempt by the military to take control of the government of the republic of Haiti had been made in June, but this source would not go so far as to say that an attempt on the life of President Elie Lescot had been made.

This same source also admitted that following the action of the Haitian National Assembly in April which amended the constitution and allowed President Lescot to stand for re-election, and his subsequent return to office for a six-year term, did cause "considerable" resentment.

Last week's exclusive report in the Chicago Defender declared that 21 military officers had been summarily executed for complicity in the conspiracy. The ANP was able to learn that this is at least true for seven individuals. "There may have been more," it was said.

The friction is further attributed to the dissatisfaction among men on the lower levels of the military over food and wages they were receiving. The situation, however, was described as being "under control."

The Haitian ambassador here, Andre Liautaud, could not be reached on Thursday late for a comment on the report, but his with this reporter later on the matter.

"It could not be learned with any definiteness whether or not the reported "revolt" had found support outside of the army. Evidence available, however, did indicate that there have been general repercussions of an economic nature due to the sharp curtailment of the development of the crypto-stegia plant for rubber production.

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As early as last September, prior to the visit here of President Lescot, this program was being curtailed. Except for a few "expermental stations." the entire undertaking has been liquidated at a loss of somewhere in the neighborhood of $6,000,000.

Reason for the liquidation is that it was found that no substantial quantity of rubber could be expected before 1945, and that this would not be of any value to the allied cause, the original purpose for starting the program.

According to the annual report of the Haitian fiscal department for the period ending last September, the reduction in acreage ultimately resulted in "labor difficulties."

8-11-44

Some 100,000 acres of land were, at the peak of the program, unred lease to the government. These were in small tracts. The cutback and final "cutout" meant that this land had to be turned back to the peasants along with the disappointment in their hopes.

President Lescot had so closely identified himself with the success of the rubber production program that when those reverses orrurred. he became the focal point of resentment among the people.

Aware that there might be direful economic repercussions in Haiti, the American government is understood to have undertaken investigations "on the ground" to aid coping with the problems.

Meanwhile, the report of a small business mission which had been sent down to Haiti last winter by the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs to explore the possibilitions for development of small enterprises, has not yet made public its report.

The original hope in this connection, as expressed by President Roosevelt last fall, was such an approach to the economic problems of the island might afford some means of providing a measure of self-sustenance for the people. It could, conceivably, manufacture some of the raw materials produced there.

Confirm Haitian Revolt; Mum On Lescot Assasination Attempt

Informer — Houston, Texas
8-12-44

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Haitians Make 5-Week Study of Farms in S.C.

8-12-44

ORANGEBURG, S.C.—Two Haitian farm extension agents or one-year scholarships to study farm extension methods in the United States, recently completed a five-week study of farm conditions and methods in seven counties.

Granted the scholarships by the Department of Agriculture, Gabriel Nicholas, district agent, and Rodini Conte, county agricultural extension agent who made headquarters at S.C. State College, has since gone to Tuskegee, Ala., headquarters for their Alabama study.

Dixie Whites Invade Haiti To Run Rubber Plantations For Wall Street

Defender — Chicago, Ill.

8-19-44

(Third of A Series)
By HAROLD PREECE

Negro Haiti—with the gracious consent of Negro President Elie Lescot—is run by white unreconstructed Confederates from Dixie.

That's the sordid conclusion to be drawn from hitherto-unpublished data on the starving, despot-ridden little Caribbean republic, uncovered by Dr. Forrest O. Wiggins of North Carolina College for Negroes. Dr. Wiggins, a modest man, who weighs every fact carefully, speaks from first-hand knowledge — he spent several months in the region of Cap-Haitien, last year.

This is what Dr. Wiggins has to say about Dixie's occupation of Haiti in his report that ought to be required reading for all the hopeful Negro and white liberals who've been playing peek-a-boo with the two-bit Caribbean Hitler who has extended his own term for seven years without an election and who says such enlightened conceptions as the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms spell "no soap" in his tortured country. 8-19-44

"Even now," says Dr. Wiggins, "most of the Americans who have been employed by the two rubber concerns have come from the southern part of the United States, on the theory, perhaps, that they 'understand' Negroes better than the Northern white.

"This is a sad and grevious mistake, for these whites either live in isolation in little colonies to themselves—at salaries about three or four or even ten times what Haitian supervisors and managers are paid—or else they have a tendency to show contempt for the Haitians.

"It is a hard job, therefore, for those Haitians who are pro-American to combat the influence of these ill-chosen Americans especially when the French clergy in Haiti is hostile to America and would like to see all the spiritual ties remain intact between Haiti and France."

Maybe, some of you remember what happened when Elie Lescot's predecessor, ex-President Stenio Vincent, came to this country in 1941. Leo Cherne tells about it in his recent book, "The Rest of Your Life":

8-19-44

"In 1941, the then President of Haiti visited this country. After official receptions in Washington, the Marine Band was asked to give him a farewell salute at the railway station. The Southern leader of the band refused to be present but instructed the band as to what they were to play.

"He probably assumed that the 'ignorant' islander wouldn't know the difference, and the President of Haiti, entering the train to the tune of 'Bye, Bye, Blackbird,' gave no sign that he did. But throughout the countries of South and Central America, the story is mentioned whenever relations with the United States are discussed."

8-19-44

Dr. Wiggins doesn't say it in so many words but he infers, in his report, that these Dixie overseers think that it's "Bye, Bye, Blackbird," so far as a quarter of a million black Haitian peasants, uprooted from their land by Wall Street imperialism, with the connivance of President Lescot, is concerned. In the first article in this series, I exposed, for the first time, the wholesale evacuation of these black farmers from their land to make way for the wholesale sowing of the wild weed, cryptostegia, which was supposed to produce artificial rubber but fizzled out like a real rubber inner tube.

The Wall Street outfit which ran off the peasants from their little homes—with the aid of its deputies from Dixie—is the Haitian-American Agricultural Development Corporation, known by its works as SHADA to those who now eat the dust of the road rather than the bread of their fields. SHADA is supposed to be an agency of the Haitian government but its president and general manager is an American, Thomas A. Fennell, who allegedly got his training in "finance" and in "democracy" from the bucket shops of Wall Street. Here is what Fennell had to say about that big job of rooking little people in a signed article, "Haiti Turns to New Farming Tasks," published in the March, 1943, issue of "The South and World Affairs," official organ of the Southern Council on International Relations at Chapel Hill, N. C.:

8-19-44

"We are recruiting more agriculturists from the United States . . . (He meant those Dixie 'experts' who have cotton in their heads where their brains ought to be—H. P.). We expect to provide employment for 100,000 or more Haitians. What this means to Haiti, where employment for wages is small, may be glimpsed from the size of the operations . . . When SHADA was conceived, its sponsors saw the possibilities for rubber, essential oils, and fibers.

"They did not sense, perhaps, how close was the emergency which would demand projects like the cryptostegia project. But these projects emphasize in the glaring spotlight of war necessity the possibilities of a closer tie-up between Haitian production and the United States market. That tie-up will mean in the long-run, as it already means, expansion of Haitian purchasing power, rising living standards for Haitian people, a gain in inter-American revelations."

8-19-44

Forced Leases

Mr. Fennell is a rich man with a lot of axes to grind and to use on the necks of 2,700,000 poor Haitians who don't understand high finance but who do understand quite simply and quite stubbornly that a piece of earth is a home and a living for your family. Dr. Wiggins is a poor man with no axes to grind and I'm inclined to believe him rather than Mr. Fennell when he says in his report:

8-19-44

"Due to the shortage of natural rubber, because of the Japanese seizure of the sources of raw rubber, America had to seek other sources for this important war material. Fortunately, or unfortunately, a plant—cryptostegia—was found growing wild in Haiti. . . . There are two large companies, furnished with American capital, which are growing this plant extensively. Their policy has had up to the present the following results:

"First, the Haitian peasant who was a small, independent farmer, was forced by his government to lease his land to these companies for about 30 years.

8-19-44

Second, His house was torn down; his trees destroyed—particularly his mango trees and the trees from which he gathered his cassava (a staple tropical food.)

"Third, This makes the one-time landowner a dispossessed day laborer. The Haitian laborer is paid thirty cents a day, out of which he has to feed, clothe, and provide shelter for himself and his family."

Creole Elite

There's a big gap between the 30 cents that Pierre, the peasant, gets when he finds a day's work and the $250 a month that one of Lescot's — and Shada's — combined army-police captains get for throwing Pierre in the calaboose if he demands 35 cents a day. For little Haiti, with an annual budget of less than $7,000,000 — less than New York — spends for education—finds it necessary to maintain an army of 30,000 men to keep Lescot in the presidential palace and SHADA on the land.

And what of Haiti's Creole "elite" — the gentlemen who Dr. Wiggins says, do "not know any sociology or economics, nothing about commerce or business or agriculture or engineering" but who "can talk about Racine, Euripides, and Plato and Aristotle — giving you long quotations from each."

8-19-44

That's another story and a sad one. I'm going to tell you how that Creole "aristocracy" of corny "philosophers" and glorified intellectual tramps is serving as the assistant hangmen of Haiti's black folk in next week's article which will be called "Haiti's Creole Quislings."

Haitian Addresses White Language Group In Greensboro, Speaking French Only

Journal & Guide — Norfolk, Va.

12-9-44

GREENSBORO, N. C.—Haitians resent American color prejudice and want none of this country's jim-crow practices, Dr. Forest Oran Wiggins, professor of French at North Carolina College, told a Fall meeting of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina here Saturday.

Dr. Wiggins, speaking in French in a program with Dr. F. A. G. Cowper, professor of Romance Languages at Duke University, recently returned from several months studying and teaching in Haiti. He is a native of Indianpolis, Ind., and attended Butler University there. Prior to receiving his Ph. D., from the University of Wisconsin, Wiggins studied in France.

He is the first Negro ever to address the lily-white language group.

Haitians are offended at American whites who bring their color prejudices to the island with them, Wiggins said, and went on to remark that this government shows little wisdom in its choice of diplomats to the island.

12-9-44

Pan-Americanism was cradled in Haiti, Wiggins said, observing that Haiti, having given impetus to the idea, expected America to make it a reality.

The speaker urged that America accept the challenge to establish a world brotherhood among all nations.

561-1944

Haitie

Atlantic Charter Doesn't Apply To Haiti-Lescot

By HAROLD PREECE

Who would you think is the pet Negro of the lily-white clique in our state Department at Washington?

Brother, you're wrong. The pet Negro isn't the brass-buttoned flunky who bows and scrapes when a sixteenth assistant secretary of this and that throws him a quarter for opening a door.

The pet Negro is that iron despot at home and that dignified Democrat abroad-President Elie Lescot of the raped, bleeding, starving republic of Haiti.

He was trained--as Dixie's white planters train Negro overseers to boss their plantations--by that clique to boss Haiti during the years when he served as his country's ambassador to Washington.

White Man's Negro

Like the black overseers who know where their white biscuits are buttered, who stand by with horse-whips to help their boss men rob the black sharecroppers at settling time, Lescot was trained to help his boss men of the Haitian-American Development Corporation rob and disposses the helpless black farmers of his suffering country.

Faithful old Uncle Elie has sure put those black folks--90 per cent of Haiti's 3,000,000 population--in their places.

You couldn't find a more loyal white man's Negro even if you went to South Carolina and scouted around on the plantation of Old Marse Cotton Ed Smith.

Last April 15 President Lescot and the Haitian parliment--a pack of pet Negroes who use their heads mainly as hat racks passed each other some biscuits made up with Wall street dough.

They had to pass the biscuits fast because the parliamentary elections were coming up and the black folks with holes in their breeches were getting ready to vote out the boys who had sold their country's birthright of freedom--won by Toussaint L'Ouverture and Jean Jacques Dessalines--for a mess of weeds.

Cancel Elections

Let Max L. Hudicourt, exiled Haitian editor and candidate for the Chamber of Deputies, in that elections which was never held tell what the pet Negroes did to hold one of the United Nations allied with us in the world-wide battle for democracy, in bondage to Wall Street's Haitian-American Development Corporation.

"According to the constitution Monsieur Hudicourt told me, "the chief of the government had to finish his term on May 15, 1940, and the parliament its term on January 15, 1944.

"So that in October of this year, legislative elections were to take place. Everbody in the country thought that the Atlantic Charter and the liberal ideas for which we are fighting would allow the Haitian peoples the right to elect freely their representatives.

"But on April 15, the parliament declared that it wished to revise the constitution and prolong President Lescot's term for seven more years without the consent of the people. In turn, the President sent a message of thanks to the parliament and, as a payment for its service in 'reelecting' him, prolonged its term for a duration of one year after the signing of a treaty of peace with the last country with which Haiti is at war.

"Last April 19, in less than 30 minutes, the propositions were voted en masse—unanimously and silently."

War Declaration

Then Monsieur Hudicourt traced for me the two-faced dealings of Elie Lescot since the Japanese planes at Pearl Harbor bombed the American republics out of their complacency and into this world war.

"On the evening of Pearl Harbor," said Monsieur Hudicourt, "President Lescot convened the parliament and declared war on the Axis. The whole country backed him up in this declaration of war. The whole country backed him up when seven weeks later—on January 2, 1942—he signed the Atlantic Charter drawn up by your President Roosevelt and by Great Britain's Winston Churchill."

Less than two years later—on January 1, 1944—President Lescot made a speech to the nation, declaring that the Atlantic Charter be all right for the rest of the world but was no go in his country. That speech was not only an insult to his own ragged, starving countrymen; it was an insult to Negroes in every part of the world and a brutal, cynical mockery of all the hopes for freedom held by Negroes from Louisiana to Kenya.

In that speech delivered last New Year's day, Lescot said that "in our country, more than anywhere else, it is difficult, if not impossible, to practice democracy as it is practiced in certain states."

Lescot made another speech when he was inaugurated for his illegal second term last May 15. It was a speech that a pet Negro overseer in the Alabama Black Belt might have made over the bleeding corpse of a Negro sharecropper for demanding the bread earned with his hands.

"I know that the people believe that they can take shelter under the cover of the Four Freedoms," Lescot said, according to the English translation of the speech which I have in my possession.

"The poor naive people! Their i... ity would make me laugh if that ingenuity did not carry in it, malignant and harmful germs."

"We have decided to apply these principles (of the Four Freedoms—H. P.) wholly when Haitian men will know how to use them properly, when these exploited ones—who seem to wish to defend these principles—shall have been made citizens conscious of their rights and their duties.

"We shall arrive at this goal, for it is one of the principal aims which we have pursued, and which we will continue to pursue in the seven years of our new administration—in order that the liberties announced in the Atlantic Charter shall not be translated into four licenses."

Then with cannon and machine guns guarding him on every side from the wrath of the people, President Lescot began a tirade of abuse against the brave leaders of the Haitian opposition who, obviously, could not talk back to him.

"They are sad fellows," he sneered, "those who think that they can frighten us by leaning on these stated principles or on the foreign powers to whom they are going to complain—every time that a government measure does not please them.

"A campaign is being carried on by young politicians who play the role miscreant, godless, pseudo-defenders of a working-classs which is not articulate."

"But we shall place the people and the public power under the protection of God who will help us lead the boat to a good haven."

Monsieur Hudicourt commented grimly that in Haiti, "There is no public power, only a police power."

"In my poor country," said Hudicourt, "all the principles for which we are at war are being violated. Nor does President Lescot hide these violations. In his official speeches, he affirms that he is a totalitarian chief of state."

"The constitution is the one decreed by Lescot's predecessor, Stenio Vincent. It is a totalitarian document giving all powers to the chief of state. It makes of the judiciary and legislative powers bodies which, indeed, support the executive. He (President Lescot) has indeed the right of life or death over every Haitian."

"As if so many powers were not enough for him, President Lescot handed down a decree which suppressed all constitutional guarantees. He backs up that decree by martial law."

"Many a journalist, who expressed through the newspapers opinions favorable to democracy and contrary to certain Haitian practices, is in prison without trial. One of them, Damase Pierre-Louis, director of L'Opinion, has just died as a result of the starvation diet fed him in his prison cell."

8-12-44

8-12-44

8-12-44

8-12-44

8-12-44

Philosophy Congress Meets in Haiti

Baltimore, Md.

By MERCER COOK

10-21-44

"The introduction of American capital for the development of agricultural enterprises, while it has brought millions of dollars into Haitian business life, has also dispossessed the peasant who formerly owned his own farm, but has now become a day laborer earning an average wage of 30 cents a day."

Monsieur Hudicourt admires President Roosevelt and distinguishes sharply between our country's chief executive and that lily-white clique which pulls the strings that make Lescot jump. But Monsieur Hudicourt also told me:

"The unpopularity of Lescot and the crushing of all democratic forces by the police make this brutal 'reelection' of the Haitian despot a scandal from the democratic standpoint."

"Rightly or wrongly, the Haitian people hold the United States responsible for what has happened to their country."

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — An effective answer to those who refuse to see anything but voodoo in Haiti was provided here last week by the International Congress of Philosophy, sponsored by the Haitian Society of Scientific Studies. Its membership includes

such world figures as Dr. Price Mars and Dantes Bellegarde.

Because of travel restrictions, numerous countries were not represented. Canada sent several delegations from Laval University. Great Britain donated a valuable set of philosophical works.

The United States sent three representatives: Dr. Kruse, secretary of the American Philosophical Association Father Guthrie, dean of the Graduate School of Georgetown University; and Alfred Metraux, of the Smithsonian Institute.

Professors at Harvard, Columbia, Princeton, Bryn Mawr, the University of Chicago, and the University of Pennsylvania, sent communications. 10-21-44

DuBois Message

A message from Dr. W. E. B. DuBois was read at the first session which, incidentally, was held in the President's palace. Later meetings were moved from the Haitian American Institute to a local theatre because of the tremendous crowds.

Father Guthrie announced that Georgetown University would offer one scholarship each year to a Haitian student. Perhaps this will make it easier for colored Americans to gain admittance to this Christian institution.

The outstanding delegation to the Congress was indisputably that of France. The Provisional Government of the French Republic sent two representatives, one colored and the other white. The white delegate was Jacques Maritain, the celebrated Catholic philosopher, who has been directing the Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes and teaching at Columbia University. 10-21-44

Cesaire a Delegate

The colored French delegate was Professor Aime Cesaire, a young Martinique intellectual who was educated in Paris. Cesaire is a graduate of the Superior Normal School, which is recognized as the most difficult educational institution in France.

Primarily a poet, young Cesaire's thesis was on American colored bards. His brilliant lectures and remarkable personal qualities will long be remembered by Haitians. He should go far in the future intellectual life of the reborn French Republic.

The success of the Congress must be attributed in large measure to the untiring President of the Society of Scientific Studies: Dr. Camille Lherrison, a former student at Harvard, the Sorbonne and McGill.

Haitian Foreign Trade At "Peak"

WASHINGTON, (ANP)—The total Haitian foreign trade in the first nine months of this present fiscal year exceeded that for any entire fiscal year since 1929-30, the department of Commerce reports.

Among exports, coffee continued to constitute the most important single commodity, though shipments were less than in the fiscal year 1942-43. Very large shipments of sugar, however, contributed greatly to the total export volume. Both cotton and banana exports increased markedly.

Sugar shipments to Canada and the United Kingdom and cotton exports to Columbia have decreased the relative share of Haitian exports to the United States while cotton-textile imports from Mexico have reduced the position of the United States as supplier of Haitian imports.

In the quarter, April through June, for eign trade was unusually heavy, with exports substantially exceeding imports. Sugar exports in this period were greater than in any entire fiscal year in the history of the republic since the colonial period. Exports of sisal, however, were smaller than those in the corresponding period since the fiscal year 1940-41. Exports have been increasing gradually since the low of October and November 1942, when no bananas were shipped. Availability of shipping has been the most important factor in the growth of the trade.

N. Y. Amsterdam News 10-28-44

Haitians Confirm Attempted Revolt, Defender Scoop

By ERNEST E. JOHNSON

WASHINGTON--An intermediate but well-informed government source this week confirmed that an abortive attempt by the military to take control of the government of the republic of Haiti was made in June, but this source would not go so far as to say that an attempt on the life of President Elie Lescot had been made.

This same source also admitted that the action of the Haitian National Assembly in April which amended the constitution and allowed President Lescot to stand for re-election, and his subsequent return to office for a six year term, did cause "considerable" resentment.

Last weeks's exclusive report in the Chicago Defender declared that 21 military officers had been summarily executed for complicity in the conspiracy. The ANP was able to learn that this is at least true for seven individuals. "There may have been more," it was said.

Defender-Chicago, Ill. 8-12-44

Chicago Defender - 5-21-44

FEDERATION OF WEST INDIES

Defender—Chicago, Ill.

In keeping with the international trend of forming larger political units between peoples faced with common economic and social problems, political leaders of the West Indies have indicated their desire for a federation of the various Caribbean colonies.

Recently the legislative council of Jamaica asked the government of the island to ascertain the feelings of the other islands' legislature as well as those of British Guiana and British Honduras on the question of forming a united West Indian Federation with a view to making a joint request to the Imperial government in London for such a Federation. 7-15-44

The Jamaica government, we are told, will also be asked to consider borrowing 15,000,000 pounds to put the island on a sound economic basis. The People's National Party, one of the most progressive leftist organizations in the West Indies, has already drawn up extensive plans for the economic and social rehabilitation of the island. The party intends to contest the general elections to be held under the new Constitution on a program reflecting the interests of workers, peasants and intellectuals.

The reactionary forces, composed of the sugar and banana planters, merchants and other big business moguls will seek, no doubt, to prevent a change in the status quo. They have already subscribed a fund of several thousand pounds to pay the expenses of candidates who will oppose those nominated by the progressive People's Nationa Party. 7-15-44

If the movement for federation of the Caribbean colonies should succeed much of the political, social and economic ills which have plagued the West Indies would be eradicated by consolidation and concentration of governmental powers in the hands of progressive natives who have the deepest concern for the welfare of the islands population. It would give the natives mass power for a frontal attack on the exploiters and oppressors of their helpless people.

World Fronts

Amsterdam News—New York, N.Y.

The Island of Jamaica Speaks

In this week's World Fronts, the Island of Jamaica, West Indies, speaks through one of her sons to the larger world of New York. It is, in fact, an appeal to New Yorkers, whose hearts are as large, kindly, sympathetic and responsive as the heavens above and the waters that encompass them. 10-28-44

Mr. Malliet

The hurricane which swept the Caribbean and the Southern coast of the United States recently has left such destruction in the wake, in large areas of the island, that it is difficult to fully explain or make vivid to those of us 1500 miles away. The people have been rendered homeless, and thousands are without clothing and adequate supplies of food. Tales of the distress are heart-rendering, and the appeals to us from responsible social agencies in the island, including the Fund headed by Lady Huggins, wife of the Governor, urge immediate aid.

The Jamaica Progressive League, which was organized by the writer of this column, Dr. Lucien M. Brown, W. Adolph Roberts, the Rev. Ethelred Brown and others, has risen nobly to the occasion and is acting as the agency through which contributions of money and clothing may be sent to the sufferers. Already, more than $600 have been collected and remitted, and hundreds of "bundles for Jamaica" have been collected, and are being prepared in the work rooms of the Save the Children Federation, 1 Madison

—By A. M. WENDELL MALLET

Avenue, for shipment to Jamaica.

It is seldom that New Yorkers and other Americans hear about Jamaica, but they have heard a great deal about "Jamaica Rum" and they know of the aggressive nature of those Jamaicans with whom they have come in contact. Jamaica, too, has made large contributions to the United States, if only as one of the islands that supplied labor to build the Panama Canal. In World War 2, she stands guard against submarine attacks upon the mainland. U. S. naval and aerial bases and garrisons have been established there, and today, Jamaica like other bastions in the Caribbean and Atlantic, stands guard in protecting the American mainland.

But why apologize for begging. Americans don't want to hear that sort of thing. They want to know the problem and the solution. They will do their share. On Sunday, October 29, at 3:30 in the afternoon, a mass meeting will be held at St. James Presbyterian Church, 141st Street and St. Nicholas Avenue, where the final drive for money and gifts of clothing will be made by the Jamaica Progressive League with the support of a local Citizens Committee of some of the leading men and women of the community.

We are asking for a small sum: $1000, and bundles of clothing for Jamaica. Jamaicans and their friends among native-born Americans, white and Negro, and their fellow West Indians are urged to attend the meeting and support the cause. The guest speaker will be Assemblyman William T. Andrews, and there will be several others to tell us what we want to hear about such problems.

Labor Party Sweeps Jamaica's Elections

Chicago Defender Ill.

12-23-44

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON—From Greece to the West Indies, it is becoming quite clear that wherever common people are given the opportunity, either with arms or ballots, to demonstrate their sentiments, they are on the march against reactionary big business.

The "old gang" representing Fascist-like interests are becoming more and more aware that the underprivileged groups mean to cast off the disgraceful yoke they have worn so long.

Just two weeks after Barbados workers had swept the general elections by capturing 15 of the island legislature's 24 seats, Jamaican masses routed merchants and planters in the first elections held under the new constitution which grants Jamaica limited self-government.

Union Head Wins

A preliminary count indicated Labor Party candidates, headed by trade union boss, Alexander Bustamante, won 22 of the 32 seats in the House of Representatives. It is probable that the remaining 10 will be captured by the leftist Peoples National Party, led by Norman Manley, Socialist attorney, and Wilfred Domingo, Harlem, N. Y., radical who was arrested and imprisoned by Governor Richards when he returned to the island in 1942 to help Manley, in his struggle against the capitalists. The new constitution provides for two chambers in Parliament, a House of Representatives and a Legislative Council.

Members of the House are elected on the basis of adult suffrage but the Council membership of ten is handpicked by the governor and his executive council. Of the number, five are chosen by the governor and the other five selected from among members of the House. The governor has the power to veto any bills passed by the House which he disapproves. Consequently, the Colonial Office will continue to exercise final policy decisions. 12-23-44

First Since 1865

This is the first representative government the Jamaicans have had since 1865 when the natives unsuccesfully rebelled against British domination. Before that time, representative government had existed for 200 years.

Under the Dominion system, it is Parliament and not the governor which exercises policy decisions. For this reason, natives are dissatisfied with makeshift constitutions which, despite certain modifications, leaves the government practically the same, merely serving as a disguise for colonial autocracy behind a mask of pseudo-democracy.

Alarmed by increasing radicalism among West Indian natives, ruling classes in the Bahamas informed the Duke of Windsor of their opsition to the granting of the secret ballot to Negroes. However, the duke, upon opening the Bahamas House Assembly this week after a fortnight's recess, again denounced the capitalists.

Duke's Appeal Futile

Said Windsor, "After more than four years as governor, I become very conscious of the difficulty of avoiding repetition when addressing the legislature. If I have been guilty of such a thing, I must be excused on the grounds that my insistence on the necessity of certain fundamentals changes your outlook promptly. It is solely my sincere interest in the colony's welfare and my desire that you shall find yourself unprepared to face new conditions in a fast changing world.

Despite the duke's appeal, the reactionaries refused to pass the secret ballot, Workmen's Compensation bill and trade union legislation.

561-1944

Warning: Watch Argentina's "Hitler Of The West"

Latin America

Norfolk, Va.

The Negro In Latin America

Journal & Guide 4-29-44

By Harold Preece

(PART I)

THERE is a human spider sitting in Buenos Aires who is already being called "the Hitler of the West" by savage fanatics egging him on to make a bid for hemisphere power before the year is over.

We've been so busy fighting the original Hitler, eastward across the Atlantic, that we've paid little attention to this dangerous "Aryan" who hopes to rule North and South America as Hitler still hopes to rule Europe.

He's a man whom the colored peoples of Latin America are watching as carefully as their brothers of the United States are watching John Rankin. But they are doing something more than just watching him as Europe watched Hitler to its virtual destruction before Hitler broke the bounds of the Rhine and went on butchering.

4-29-44

TRADE UNION POWER

They were taking action to squelch him through the Confederation of Latin American Workers, that great federation of Indian and Negro trade unionists whose executive committee was still meeting in emergency session at Montevideo, Uruguay, as I wrote this. I had promised to discuss the plans to stop "The Hitler of the West" in this article, but the fact that the colored leaders were still in session with American leaders of the CIO forces me to postpone this until after their adjournment.

But the colored peoples of Latin America have spotted this man for us and warned us to join with them in squelching him before the colored and the white peoples of this hemisphere are crushed under his military machine, fully equipped with Nazi money and Nazi guns.

That man is Argentina's war minister and actual dictator, Col. Juan Peron. Remember that name. It may become the symbol of death and destruction for the Christian civilization of our hemisphere.

It may become the symbol of new enslavement of the colored peoples, both in the United States and in Latin America, unless our country helps Peron's own rebellious subjects and the freedom-loving peoples of Latin America to squelch him before he breaks the bounds of the Rio Plata.

He's made and unmade three puppet presidents since his clique of colonels deposed liberal, pro-Ally President Roberto Ortiz in 1941.

TRAINED BY NAZIS

We all ought to take the war against the Hitlers more seriously when we remember that these colonels and many other officials of his army were trained by Nazi officers sent to Argentina long before the beginning of the present war, that a number of these imitation reichsmarshals were given free trips to Hitler-land and there decorated by the maniac who's due for a neck-stretching once this war is finished.

Peron is getting ready to send his soldiers, marching in the German goose step and wearing the German steel helmet, from the lily white Argentina to negroid Brazil as soon as he can crush the determined opposition of Argentina's enlightened middle class, and its anti-fascist working-class.

The American journalist, Carl Crow, reported in a somewhat ambiguous article, "Argentina's Bad Neighbor Policy" published in the March 11 issue of Liberty magazine just what is going on in the minds of Argentina's pro-Nazi landowning and militarist class, as their leader, Peron, gets ready for war with the help of the other two nations in Latin America's "Aryan" Axis — Paraguay and Bolivia.

"If you ever remind an Argentine that Brazil has more than three times the population of his own country," Crow wrote, "he call your attention to the fact that the population of Brazil includes millions of Negroes and Indians.

"There are more white people in Argentina than in Brazil; therefore, he will insist Argentina has the largest population. This consciousness of race, with the inevitable antagonisms and prejudices fits neatly into the familiar Nazi pattern. The Argentinas were boasting about the purity of their race and their superiority over their neighbors long before Hitler was born."

Negro newspapermen in Latin America tell me that Peron has been promised by Hitler that he will become the supreme ruler of the Western Hemisphere in the event that the Axis New Order should become the triumphant World Order. Hitler in Europe, Hirohito in Asia, Peron in Argentina, with Argentina becoming the supreme power in this part of the world — that would be the payoff with the United States, playing second fiddle under a fascist, lily-white government to the fascist, lily white government at Buenos Aires.

There Are Jobs For Negro Technicians In Latin America . . .

Journal and Guide, Norfolk

The Negro In Latin America

Journal & Guide — Norfolk, Va.

By Harold Preece —

5-13-44

GO SOUTH, young Negro—south of the Rio Grande where 20 Latin American nations want your help in developing what's going to be one of the world's greatest booms.

Learn Spanish and prepare yourself for a lifetime work in an area where 100,000,000 out of 120,000,000 are colored people—Negroes, Indians, and mixed blood folk who threw out Jim Crow when they threw out their lily-white Spanish taskmasters in the generation following our American revolution.

Vicente Lombardo Toledano, president of the Latin American Confederation of Labor and recognized leader of the workers delegations from the colored Latin American countries pointed out last week at the International Labor Conference in Philadelphia that one big chance for post-war prosperity lay in the economic and social development of these awakening dark-skinned nations.

WANTS HELP OF UNITED STATES

Latin America, said Toledano, wants the help of the United States in developing her industries and her peoples. And other Latin American delegates made it pretty plain what kind of Americans they wanted down there to help do the job.

5-13-44

These delegates, said in substance, that Americans like Bilbo might as well not get their feet wet crossing the Rio Grande. Our neighbors have already had too many of the old-style Americans who hated Latin America's colored majority—that kind of American who calls colored people "niggers" north of the Rio Grande, and who calls colored people "spicks" and "greasers" south of the Rio Grande.

For who ever tried to practice "white supremacy" in Latin America finally got run out on a rail. Today white supremacy is more unpopular than ever in that great section of the colored world, according to what some Latin American delegates said in Philadelphia.

BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY 5-13-44

A white patriot priest, Father Nunez, from one of the few "white" countries of Latin America, spoke in the spirit of Mexico's great Negro priest and liberator, Father Morales, when he said:

"—Specifically, we ask for the workers of Latin America the benefits of an international policy which does not recognize any discrimination of race, nationality, sex or religion. We support the principles of free trade unions—"

Dr. Nanneti, delegate from Colombia where Negroes comprise at least one-fifth of the population, followed Father Nunez and declared that:

"In a world of ruin and tears, in the midst of skepticism and hatred, we have to reconstruct a world illuminated by faith, justice and peace.

LASTING PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

"There will be no lasting peace unless it is based on social justice, that all human beings without distinction of race, creed, or sex, have the right to pursue their intellectual development and material wellbeing, in conditions of freedom and dignity, in economic security and equality of opportunity. Work should not be a commodity. There should be guaranteed living wages. And lastly, freedom of association, of expression must be the essential condition for constant progress.

"The American peoples, producers of raw materials, are a hope for the persecuted of all the world, who seek, in a new world, bread and freedom and yearn for a decent humane life.

"If the future fate of the poor in Latin America depends at the present time on the prices and possibilites of consumption of raw materials, we cannot forget that many of these products also come from other parts of the world which need to intensify their evolution to reach a decent and human standard of living."

WELCOMES NEGRO TECHNICIANS

Latin America, where the blood of the Negro runs as deeply as Latin America's great rivers, will welcome Negro technicians and teachers, doctors and nurses, Negroes who can do anything useful and who will come there with the intention of giving as well as taking—that is the plain implication in these words of Latin America's distinguished spokesman.

Next week, I'm going to discuss specifically some of the jobs that may be open to American Negroes in Latin America if American Negroes will start campaigning now to get those jobs.

American Bar Congress at Mexico City, a couple of weeks ago, these lawyers recommended an international treaty seeking elimination of racial discrimination in every country"—including the United States. How does that sound, Mr. Bilbo?

As a matter of fact, the resolution calling for such a treaty was proposed by Alonso S. Peralos, a Mexican-American lawyer, from San

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The Negro In Latin America

By Harold Preece

TREATIES AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

Memo for the statesmen charting blueprints for peace at Dumbarton Oaks—how about an international treaty, signed by all the nations of the world, outlawing race discrimination in every country of the world? Russia where almost 200,000,000 (M) white and colored peoples live

Meeting in th

Antonio, Texas, where the Mexican 50 per cent. of the population got almost the same Jim Crow treatment that Negroes got in old Jim's empire of Texas. The resolution was seconded by Jose Barria, of Panama, a country where Negroes are honorably respected and honored even if a former Panamanian president with colored blood in his veins tried to bar the gifted American Negro singer, Aubrey Pankey, from the republic.

We've heard a lot about the Good Neighbor policy, and I'm all for it. But these lawyers, many of whom are mixed Indian-Negro in their descent, show us that we need a smart neighbor policy to put teeth into our good neighbor policy.

The smart neighbor policy means routing out old Jim Crow from his last hole in Texas and Mississippi and burying him when we bury Jim Crow's hoodlum offspring, Adolf Hitler. If we're going to bury Hitler but leave his daddy, Old Jim around to propagate more Hitlers, then we can be pretty sure that World War III is around a pretty close corner.

It's the same principle—or lack of honest horse sense—as cutting off a weed but leaving the roots to sprout bigger tops.

For already, Jim Crow has prevented the Good Neighbor policy from functioning as it ought to in Latin America or in those other sections of the world where the great majority of the people are colored.

The Colored Peoples Speak At Philadelphia....

Journal + Guide — Norfolk, Va.

The Negro In Latin America

6-20-44

By Harold Preece

(Editor's Note—In Asia, in Africa, in the United States, in the West Indies, and in Latin America, the colored man is speaking out emphatically for a new world of democracy and brotherhood. That new world came a little bit closer when the representatives of Latin America's colored peoples, attending the International Labor Organization Conference in Philadelphia voted, under the leadership of Mexico's Vicente Lombardo Toledano, to exclude the lily-white pro-fascist leader of the Argentine delegation. Mr. Preece, noted authority on the Negro in Latin America, tells something about Mr. Toledano and what happened at Philadelphia).

"FEW people realize the important role played by Negroes as such in the political and civic life of many of our countries. In the labor movement itself, of course, we have distinguished Negro leaders who do honor to the democratic ideals cherished by the Latin Americans. "In Cuba, for example, the beloved leader of the entire labor movement is a very distinguished Negro trade unionist, Lazaro Pena, secretary general of the Confederation of Cuban Workers."

Mr. Vicente Lombardo Toledano, of Mexico speaking. And Mr. Toledano ought to know what he's talking about.

LEADER OF 4,000,000 TRADE UNION MEMBERS 5-20-44

He's the leader of the Latin American Confederation of Labor (CTAL), an international organization of Latin American trade unions with a collective membership of 4,000,000 members—most of them black, brown, and mixed breed peoples. His organization works closely with the CIO trade union movement in this country because, among other things, the CIO says that a working man is a working man, whatever the shade of his skin.

I predicted in a previous article in this series, "The AFL Tries to Analyze Latin America," that the representatives of the colored people, who are the majority in the CTAL, would be heard from at the 26th annual conference of the International Labor Organization in Philadelphia. Mr. Toledano and other representatives of dark-skinned workers in 20 Latin-American nations didn't let me down on that one. 5-20-44

They looked around that conference hall in Philadelphia and spotted a man who had come there as a representative of Jim Crow and Hitler to preach fascism and race hate — Luis Girola, appointed "labor" delegate of Argentina's would-be "Aryan" dictator, Juan Peron.

OUSTED BY 17 TO 3 VOTE

They had been expecting Girola, representative of government-controlled unions favorable to our own American Federation of Labor,, to show up. They had been laying for him ever since they held their own CTAL emergency conference at Montevideo, Uruguay, last month.

And Gloria got the works. The labor delegates to the conference held a meeting: the vote to oust Girola was 17 to 3 — the three negative votes being cast, unfortunately, by delegates from the United States, Great Britain and Australia voting against the delegates from Latin America.

In previous articles, I've had had a lot to say about Vicente Lombardo Toledano, the white Mexican whom the colored majority of Latin America praises in the same breath with "Senor Abraham Lincoln." I've described Toledano as a friend and champion of Negroes, and he proved it when he landed in this country to attend the ILO conference. 5-20-44

RELEASED STATEMENT

One of his first stops, after he had set foot on United States soil, was at the headquarters of the National Negro Congress in New York. There he gave out the statement, released through the NNC, which I quoted at the beginning of this article.

The NNC press release, containing Mr. Toledano's statement, emphasizes that:

"The racial integration described by Mr. Toledano was in effect a pointed criticism of disunifying 'white supremacy' movements in the United States though he confined himself to a description of conditions in Latin America."

Mr. Toledano said that he had found "Negro leaders doing splendid work with regard to the general struggle against fascism" during his recent travels in Latin America.

"It should be made very clear, of course," he added, "that Negroes are the people of Latin America just the same as people of Spanish, Indian, or any other descent. In our countries, distinctions or limitations of any sort placed upon persons because of race or color are not recognized by law. 5-20-44

"Racial discrimination, ideological offspring of fascism, is not one of the perils to national unity in any of our countries."

WHITE MAN'S VIEWS

Latin Americans Fear Our Democracy With Its Race Distinction

By TED LE BERTHON

(The views expressed in this column are those of the White Columnist and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

JUST as race prejudice and religious prejudice are basically different things, although sometimes blended within one mind or throughout some region, so are class distinction and race prejudice basically different things, regardless of their overlappings in this country. These are things that must be understood for any honest approach to hemispheric solidarity.

We must understand that despite class distinction existing in Latin American countries—just as they exist in the United States—there is no such thing as race prejudice in any organized or collective sense from the Rio Grande to the South Pole. We must face the fact that nothing is so seriously jeopardizing our "good neighbor policy" as Latin America's downright horror of Saxon-America's treatment of Negroes and Mexicans.

We cannot believe our kept white secular press as to the joyous collaboration willingly concurred in by Latin American nations. I know—and have known—and have known many Latin Americans not to realize that they cordially detest most Saxon-Americans. They have specially loathed our traders, our Rotrians, as being Babbitts, our boorish and uncivilized. Most

Mr. Le Berthon

—on the other hand. And past—THEY say "400s," our mercantile revolutionaries — who often don't—aristocracy which mouthsdemocratic equality, but certainly does not associate with those born on the wrong side of the tracks," and moreover, believes in "white supremacy." They concede class distinction. They reject race distinction. Their wealthy, highly educated persons include Negroes, Indians, mestizos and mulattos. They claim this is true democracy. They fear our kind of democracy.

FEAR "OUR WAY OF LIFE" 5-20-44

This disquietude is rarely expressed by their diplomats or their Government leaders. They often politely avow collaboration to our newspaper interviewers. Some are bought and paid for rascals, like politicians the world over, and simply side with money power. Others are discreet. But many cultured Latin-Americans fear more than anything else, the introduction of our "ways of life," chiefly psychopathic

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We must understand that despite the divisive class distinction existing in Protestant Latin American countries—just as they exist in the United States. This is WHAT therefore agonizes most Latin-Americans. Most countries are devout Catholics. most is our assumption of superiority, of progress. And this accounts for much uneasiness felt towards the Office of Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs, headed by multi-millionaire oil magnate Nelson Rockefeller.

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Mr. Le Berthon

PROTESTANTISM IS DISUNIFYING

Frankly, many feel that our regarded Hollywood thing they are most fearful of is menace, on the introduction, by Saxon-Americans, of race prejudice. and good taste. In most countries a good many are lax, indifferent churchgoers. But they abhor Protestantism as being provincial, narrow, absurdly Puritanical and tying, to beauty, to esthetic sects upon their countries. to the fine arts and to gracious, good-humored living. like ALSO, most have Indian blood in their veins, many have Negro blood, a good proportion are of proportion and they regard the "white supremacy" as disgustingly pathetic.

CONCEDE CLASS DISTINCTION

They can understand class distinction, but not race bias. Their past alliance between Saxon-American business groups and a hetero-geneous assortment of well financed white Protestant mission-aries on the one hand, and past revolutionaries — who often don't with our "400s," our mercantile aristocracy which mouthsdemocratic equality, but certainly does not associate with those born on

56L-1944

Puerto Rico

The Flag Of Puerto Rico Flies Bravely And Defiantly ...

Journal & Guide - Norfolk, Va.

The Negro In Latin America

1-8-44

By Harold Preece

THE flag of the struggling little Puerto Rican nation still flies bravely and defiantly over the town hall at Yabucoa. Every day, the barefooted, hungry Negro sugar workers who pass the municipal building of that country town in eastern Puerto Rico stop and reverently salute that piece of bunting raised in 1932 by the Nationalists of both colors who follow the Negro patriot, Pedro Albizu Campos. The flag has not been lowered to this day.

Smaller specimens of that same flag are found tacked on the walls of their cramped huts—built on the swampy, malaria infested spots so that the sugar planters may have all the good acres for the tyrannical, spreading cane.

You find the flag in the more comfortable homes of educated Puerto Ricans in Ponce and San Juan; you find it behind the counters of cafes in New York's Spanish Harlem where men sit long evenings over hot, spicy food and torrid coffee to discuss plans for raising money to support the battle for freedom in that homeland which has been genuinely called America's India.

Starvation Amidst A Love Of Country's Flag

People are dying of starvation in Puerto Rico today as they are dying of starvation in India—and the worst sufferers in each country are colored. The Puerto Rican Negro or poor white may not have a piece of bread in his hand; but he cherishes that flag in his heart—it is his hope of national independence, of freedom to grow the crops of his own choosing instead of the sugar demanded by the plundering American profiteers who control the sugar business.

Wherever you go in Puerto Rico, the sugar workers tell you of the loyalty to his country's flag shown by the exiled Negro patriot, Ramon Emeterio Betances, regarded by citizens of both colors as "the Father of His Country."

One year before the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, Puerto Rico had won its independence from Spain mainly because of the inspired leadership of the black statesman, Betances. Then the American Sugar Trust sent American Negro troops to Puerto Rico to make the invasion more palatable to the new republic's citizens.

Sugar As An Emblem Of Slavery 1-8-44

After a brief taste of freedom the little democracy soon found itself converted into a second Mississippi where black men were enslaved, where sugar took the place of cotton as the emblem of slavery.

The sugar barons began crowding the black and white peasants off their fertile little farms, and Betances was already an exile in France. There he fought a duel in Paris over the Dreyfus case—that monstrous conspiracy in which the ancestors of today's Vichy French traitors framed up a Jewish officer and shipped him off to rot on Devil's Islands. For Betances, the Negro hated racism as he hated oppression.

Before he died, Betances left a last will and testament specifying that his remains were not to be brought home for burial until the last foreign soldier had left his country's soil and the last foreign flag had been lowered from its public buildings.

An Old Man Young In His Dreams

Betances was born in 1820; he died, an old man, young in his dreams and hopes in 1898. His remains were left undisturbed in a Paris tomb until 1934 when one of the Sugar Trust's quislings in the Puerto Rican Senate began hankering for a trip to Europe at the expense of the United States Government

The Senator got a handout from Washington, sailed on a luxurious liner to Paris, brought back all that was mortal of the country's national hero, and dumped it in a box in the city hall. For months the remains of the old patriot lay unburied in that box used as a foot rest by a dull little clerk.

But the time is coming, after this war, when the flag which Betances loved will float proudly over his grave as it floats stubbornly over the town hall in Yabucoa. For the Puerto Rican republic has never died in the hearts of the old men, still living, who fought for it nor has it died in the tradition of their sons and grandsons. 1-8-44

Albizu Campos May Be First President

Congressman Vita Marcantonio, whom Spanish Harlem helps send to Washington election after election, introduced a bill giving full independence to the two million people of Puerto Rico, one-third of whom are colored. Another bill for Puerto Rican independence has been introduced by Senator Millard E. Tydings, of Maryland, but it is considerably less liberal in its provisions than the Marcantonio measure.

Only a small percentage of would-be aristocrats, swarming like ants to collect some sweet dribblings from the sugar trust, raise the issue of color in Puerto Rico. Staunch patriots of both colors to whom I have talked in democratic Spanish Harlem tell me that the country's first president may be the lion hearted Negro, Albizu Campos.

U. S. Senate Votes To Let Puerto Rico Elect Its Own Governor

Journal & Guide - Norfolk, Va.

3-4-44

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—The Senate voted last week to permit Puerto Rico to elect its own governor.

Explaining the bill when it came up on Tuesday Senator Chavez of New Mexico, a supporter, pointed out that the President had appointed a commission to study the matter when the people of the island had strongly indicated a desire to elect their own officials.

During the debate the question of Puerto Rican independence arose and found Senator Tydings stoutly espousing the cause. He is the sponsor of an independence bill. "In my judgment," he said, "there is only one solution for the Puerto Rican problem, and that is complete, absolute, and unconditional independence for that island." 3-4-44

Referring to those who oppose his bill, the senator asserted that "money, selfishness, the greed of a few persons," is what is holding up its enactment. "While we are fighting this war for democracy," he added, "we are willing to keep these people in economic slavery because of a few investments there by persons in this country who are reaping handsome dividends as a result."

The Flag Of Puerto Rico Flies Bravely And Defiantly ...

Journal & Guide - Norfolk, Va.

The Negro In Latin America

1-15-44

By Harold Preece

CONCLUDING INSTALLMENT

IT WOULD BE no exaggeration to say that Albizu Campos, the Puerto Rican, is the greatest Negro statesman of the present age. He is a Nationalist in the sense that he wants his country to be free from the clutches of the sugar barons and his people free to earn more than the wages of fifteen and twenty cents a day which are paid by the Sugar Trust. But he is profoundly an internationalist in his belief that a nation can no more exist by a policy of isolation and exclusiveness than can an individual who shuts himself off from his neighbors.

His sensitive spirit still bears the scars of the martyrdom that was inflicted upon him and other Cuban patriots when they were sentenced to Atlanta penitentiary in 1936 for leading a demonstration in protest against an act of the territorial legislature which relegated their national flag to the status of a colonial flag.

Not until 1942 was the last Puerto Rican patriot released from prison, but it was typical of the 52-year old Campos and of all Negro fighters for liberty that he went right back to the job of securing independence for his country.

Harvard Graduate And Proud of Negro Blood

Campos, an honor graduate of Harvard and a commissioned officer of the progressive Spanish during World War I, is proud of his Negro blood. He would tell you, if you met him around the office, of the progressive Spanish language paper, Pueblos Hispanos, in New York, that there has never been a time in Puerto Rican history when some Negro has not been in the forefront of the battle for nationhood.

Moreover, Negroes and whites have always stuck together in that battle, he would say. As early as 1770, Negroes and whites, standing together, forced the corrupt Spanish government to grant equal educational facilities to children of both races although, today, less than 20 per cent of Puerto Rico's colored youths ever finish the third grade in the poor schools dominated by sugar imperialism.

Kept Spark of Liberty Alive In Dark Years

In the dark years after the overthrow of the Puerto Rican republic by imperialism, a white patriot and a Negro patriot of different parties but of common nationality kept the spark of liberty alive in the over-populated, over worked, and under fed little country. The white leader was the venerable Munoz Rivera who represented his country as resident commissioner to the American Congress, whose son, Senator Luis Munoz Marian, is the head of the present Popular coalition backing the land, labor, and other reforms instituted by the liberal American governor, Rexford D. Tugwell. 1-15-44

Munoz Rivera founded the Federal party. His Negro contemporary, Jose Barbosa, founded the Republican Party. Barbosa advocated admission of Puerto Rico into the Union as a forty-ninth state, but this move was checked by Southern senators.

Barbosa tried to hold the sugar plantations down to 500 acres each—the legal limit which Gov. Tugwell is trying to enforce in this period when the Governor is being "investigated" by a United States Senate committee.

Street In San Juan Named For Barbosa

But in spite of the sugar moguls, American presidents of different parties saw the worth of the Negro, Barbosa, and appointed him five times in a row to the Puerto Rican Executive Council. Barbosa was a graduate of the University of Michigan; he wanted to see all of his people educated and spent much time trying to obtain scholarships in different American schools for Puerto Rican colored students.

Today, there is a street in San Juan bearing the name of Barbosa. Another street in the same Puerto Rican city is named for Rafael Cordero, one of the island's most distinguished educators.

Barbosa's daughter, Senora de Rosa, is head of the social science department of the University of Puerto Rico. The interested the scholars of the country's leading labor lawyer is survivals among the Negro population. Two distinguished Puerto Rican white poets, Llorens Torres and Pales Mates, have done much to encourage other poets to use African and Negro themes in their verse. 1-15-44

A Place In The Family Of Free Nations

Culturally and politically Puerto Rico is marching toward her rightful place in a family of free nations which will set up no color bars against the least or greatest of their citizens.

er of the Popular coalition in the lower house of Puerto Rico's legislature.

Latin American Colored People And The Good Neighbor Policy . . . . .

Journal+Guide – Norfolk Va.

The Negro In Latin America

3-4-44

By Harold Preece

YOU CAN'T do business with colored people in Latin America on the old gun and whip bases—any more than you can keep on doing business with the colored people of the United States by handing them ropes and fatback for wages.

Colored people freed Latin America, Colored people gave Latin America its culture, as previous articles in this series have shown. Civilization of the 21 Latin American republics is not a white culture but a colored culture—for 100,000,000 of Latin America's 120,000,000 people are colored: Negroes, Indians, and others who represent different crossings of Negro, Indian, and white.

Colored people in the United States have heard a lot about the Good Neighbor policy toward Latin America, instituted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to replace the old "Big Stick" policy of robbing our colored brothers of Latin America, then sending marines to shoot them down if they didn't tip their hats and like it.

THE GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY AND THE GOLDEN RULE

The Good Neighbor policy means simply treating the peoples of Latin America as we would like them to treat us if they had our wealth and we had their poverty. Many of the benefits of that policy are going to countries where Negroes have played great and heroic parts or where they constitute big percentages of the population.

Since the neighbors down the block judge you by how you treat your neighbor next door, we are finally beginning to show our sincerity to the rest of Latin America by more rumane treatment of Puerto Rico where Negroes constitute 40 per cent of the 2,000,000 population.

Not only is there an excellent chance of Puerto Rico being given her independence from the United States in the immediate post-war period or at least, being given the right to elect her own governor, but right now the government.

Good Neighbor policy means a broad program of economic rehabilitation that will give the emerging little nation a solid framework for self-ogvernment. 3-4-44

$8,000,000 FOR WORK RELIEF PROJECTS

As I write this, thousands of Puerto Ricans are being employed on United States work projects at wages higher than the top scale of sixty cents a day offered by the plantations of the American Sugar Trust. As I write this, $8,000,000 for work relief projects is being spent in Puerto Rico and the neighborinng Virgin Islands where the population is overwhelmingly Negro.

This means saving the lives of a lot of Puerto Rican Negro children who had been starving to death before President Roosevelt appointed Rexford Tugwell as Governor of the island. Puerto Rico has been averaging 126 dead babies out of every 1,000 live births.

Negro farmers, driven back into the hills from the rich coastal plain annexed by the Sugar Trust are being resettled on more fertile lands where they can feed their families. Puerto Ricans whose crops are destroyed by the terrible and unpredictable Caribbean storms, may apply for loans from a special hurricane relief fund.

And at long last, the dream of Puerto Rico's pioneer Negro educator, Rafael Cordero is being fulfilled. Vocational schools are being set up with United States money to teach Negro boys and girls how to do other jobs besides swing machetes on the sugar plantation.

LEND-LEASE PROVING A GOD-SEND

In the past, less than 20 per cent of Puerto Rican Negro children attended school and less than 50 per cent of all the younger population—simply because the Sugar Trust squirmed out of paying taxes to educate people who might want to do something else besides swing machetes.

Much more can be done for Puerto Rico by turning loose some of the lend-lease money to square up an old and unpaid account with her long-suffering hard-working people. For lend-lease is proving a godsend to other Latin-American colored peoples who starved and died on wages of fifty cents a day but who are now getting $2.50 to $3.00 per day on American naval and aerial base projects—extra good pay in Latin America. 3-4-44

I have mentioned that some 20,000 Central American Negroes and Indians are now building the great Inter-American highway to extend eventually from Mexico to Buenos Aires. Their busy hands bring nearer a day when we will be able to drive in our cars from New York to South America through countries of hospitable, friendly colored peoples glad to know their good neighbors.

HEALTH AND SANITATION PROGRAMS

The big coffee planters of Central America and the American fruit industries are naturally sore because colored workers leave their slave plantation to work for the American government at better wages.

It is to our credit also that we are helping many Latin-American countries develop decent health and sanitation programs so that good neighbors can stop being sick neighbors.

The Negro In Latin Americ

Plaindealer – Kansas City Kan.

SUGAR LUMPS IN THE BALLOT BOX

by

HAROLD PREECE

(Editor's Note: In this challenging article, Mr. Preece, the country's leading authority on the Negro in Latin America, shows how deeply the fight for dmeocracy in colonial Puerto Rico is tied up with the fight for democracy in semi-colonial Louisiana and Florida. This series of articles by Mr. Preece on the conditions of the colored people of Latin America has aroused international interest, and requests for copies of the series have been received from several Latin American countries. In future articles, Mr. Preece will continue to write about the dreams of freedom and the problems of freedom which occupy the minds of 100,000,000 colored peoples south of the Rio Grande.)

4-21-44

What's good news for Negroes in King Sugar's colonies of Louisiana and Florida is also good news for Negroes in King Sugar's colony of Puerto Rico.

I am writing this on Easter Sunday, 1944, when 10,000,000 Negroes of our submerged south, including Louisiana and Florida, are feeling a new hope of resurrection because the Supreme Court has snapped the horns off that dragon: the Texas white primary. And my typewriter is moving along faster because of a wire which I have pust received in the Tennessee mountain village from a Negro friend in Puerto Rico.

"There is a great rejoicing in the villages and on the sugar plantations because the Supreme Court has said that the white primary law is unconstitutional," so reads that enthusiastic message from a friend who told me many legends of Puerto Rico's great Negro states man, Jose Celso Barbosa.

"In some villages, the sextons rang the church bells when the news was received. The people, —Negro and white—clapped their hands for joy when they were told by their leaders that, now, many of the Negro people of the States would be voting for the same things that they will be voting for in the elections next November 5.

"Maybe, the Negroes of the United States can help vote out those congressmen and senators, elected by the poll tax, who are working with the American Federation of Labor and with Nazi groups, operating out of Buenos Aires, to help Hitler by stirring up a general strike of the sukar workers when the sugar workers are now negotiating to get better wages and better working conditions.

"One fourth of Puerto Rico and one-tenth of the United States is Negro. And Negroes ought to stand by Negroes."

4-21-44

I agree with my friend now working to organize the sugar workers to cast their votes for democracy and for the eventual independence of America's India, in this season of the zafra—the sugar harvest. By the end of May, a million tons of sugar cane will have been cut and ground up into pulp by the Negro and white laborers—the jibaros—on the Wall St. experience in the use of a primary as an instrument of democracy. Because they did have the primary as a means of nominating candidates pledged to the winning of the war under the leadership of President Roosevelt and Insular Governor Rexford D. Tugwell, they will not have to decide, as we must, election races that simply amount to Bilbo running against Bilbo.

While the Coalition outfit is threatening to use banditry and gun-play to steal the November elections, the Popular Democratic candidates are going on foot, on horseback, and in old rickety Fords back to the sugar palntations and to the little farms in the mountains, doing a great job of educating people as to what the 1944 elections mean to their bread and butter as well as to their hopes of freedom. 4-21-44

These candidates are backing up liberal, humane Governor Tugwell because he's trying in spite of fierce opposition from King Sugar and his AFL palace guard to develop work projects which will give jobs to the starving, miserable population of this suoject country. At the last legislative session, Governor Tugwell submitted a budget of $92,000,000, with $70,000,000 of this being earmarked for relief and resettlement undertakings. A great proportion of this $70,000,000 would go to aid Negroes since Negroes are the most poverty-stricken citizens of the island's 2,000,000 population.

And in a manner that reminds one of the Reconstruction governors appointed by Washington to govern the South after the Civil War, Governor Tugwell is trying to break up the big plantation system in order that every Puerto Rican who wants to farm may have a little plot where he can grow something besides sugar.

He is trying to enforce the law permitting no individual or corporation to own more than 500 acres of land, a law that remained a dead letter until a liberal President appointed a liberal governor who gave the great prestige of his office to the liberal decent groupings of the desperate, yet hopeful little nation of the Caribbean. 4-21-44

Just last month, Negro and white Puerto Ricans gathered in the capital, San Juan, to let the world know how their country felt about King Sugar and the palace guard. It was a dress rehearsal for the new republic that will, before long, rise out of the Caribbean, a dress rehearsal staged by the CGT and dramatized with signs reading "We fight reaction in Puerto Rico, Hitler in the world. We support a fourth term for President Roosevelt. We demand Tugwell for governor as long as we remain a colony. We demand the freedom of the Puerto Rican natives owned plantations choking the small independent farmer off the island as they have almost choked democracy since the American occupation in 1898.

By the time that this article is set up in type, Puerto Ricans will be voting out the so-called Free Federation of Labor affiliated with the lily-white controlled American Federation of Labor in Washington and voting for the General Confederation of Workers, a native organization, whose 215,000 members realize that the only way to national independence is through support of the United Nations in this war, for the freedom of all peoples. 4-21-44

Those elections, which the Free Federation and its master, the Sugar Producing Association had hop-posses in this country have signed to postpone until after the war-AFL contracts "to keep the CIOcist friends of the quislings and their fascist Party, supported by the CGTheld its primaries and voters regions when the Popular Democrat- On January 16-17, Puerto Rico including the Japan-and the Pro-Independence Con-istered their political affiliations. nt, House Speaker, Fer-gress, mops up the so-called Unit-Negro candidates for local offic- achecho, are going to take Front Coalition supported byes and for the territorial legisla- st beating at the hands of the sugar bosses, the Free Feder-ture were nominated in many Rico's Negro and white ation, and the Falangists in Puer-places by the Popular Democratic for freedom. to Rico, by the American Federa-Party the majority of whose can- hat they will get in April tion of Labor, the followers of didates stand for independence but a spanking compared to American Socialist Leader. Nor-who are not making an independ- y are going to get in No- man Thomas, the poll tax con-ence issue at this time. 4-21-44

For what is left of them pressure, and Wall Street imper- ourried at the insular elec- ialists in this country.

The Association Bosses signed arrying to promote a general strikewill be a sp company union kind of contractshoping to queer the whole Puertowhat they are with the AFL outfit in 1941, hop-Rican independence movemenvember. For ing to head off the CGT as pigwith the Negro and white citizenswill be buried

Puerto Rico Looks Ahead

The Worker — New York, N.Y.

The ticket of the Popular Democratic Party swept the island in the November elections. The electorate went to the polls with eyes on the questions which will guide the island's future. 12-3-44

By ALBERTO E. SANCHEZ and VICTOR M. BOSCH

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico.

12-3-44

THE November elections marked a definite turn in the historical development of Puerto Rico. Two main forces contended at the polls—the conservative-reaction group represented by the Coalitionist Parties, and the liberal-progressive forces organized in the Popular Democratic Party.

The Coalitionist Parties worked hand-in-glove with the most reactionary interests in the United States. The Popular Democratic Party, which since its inception has been guided by New Deal and Good Neighbor policies, swept the island; it carried 74 of the 77 towns, won 17 out of 19 seats in the Senate, 36 out of 39 representatives to the Insular Legislature.

The main election issues were fundamentally economic. An instance is the work of the Insular Legislature which since 1940 has enacted positive laws despite the many obstacles placed in its path.

It is worth reviewing some of the more important acts of the legislature to improve the living standards of the working and farming population. In the first place is the enactment and enforcement of the 500-acre land limitation law which made possible the creation of the Land Authority for distributing land among the rural poor.

12-3-44

A second point is the creation of the Insular Minimum Wage Board by which wages have been considerably increased. Estimates show a gross wage increase of $5,500,000 in those industries studied by the Board. Side by side with this was the creation of a Development Company for a public program of industrial expansion. Already a considerable number of workers are employed in its projects which include the Puerto Rico Cement Corp., the Puerto Rico Glass Co., and the Puerto Rico Pulp and Paper Co.

In justice to his efforts, recognition must be given to the liberal, progressive, constructive and honest attitude which Island Governor Rexford G. Tugwell took on these questions.

12-3-44

Labor Movement Since 1940

Prior to 1940 the labor movement was stagnant on the island. The Free Federation of Labor, an AFL affiliate, was unable to achieve any real organization.

Some labor leaders conceived the idea of building a new trade union organization out of the great number of independent unions. And the new organization—the General Confederation of Workers of Puerto Rico (C. G. T.), now affiliated with the Latin American Confederation of Labor (C. T. A. L.), was born.

12-3-44

Enormous work has been done by this new trade union organization during the past four years. Its organizational work has reached 250,000 island workers. During the past year some 150 collective bargaining agreements have been signed. These agreements eloquently point to the power of labor—wage increases of 10 to 25 percent, one to four-week vacations with pay, sick benefits, employer-paid hospitalization, closed and union shop agreements, improved working agreements, and better labor-employer relations.

These far-reaching changes did not just happen. They are the result of a sound approach to the needs and problems of the people and the island. Economic and social questions were faced with realism. And the people began to think in terms of economic justice, to apply to their own homeland and the experiences of other peoples and countries.

The National Problem

12-3-44

Because of this growing consciousness of labor and the people, the union movement was able to play its decisive role in the elections. All over the island, and especially in the sugar-cane areas, C. G. T. leaders actively supported the Popular Democratic Party. A large number of C. G. T. organizers and leaders were elected to insular and municipal posts.

Three significant and fundamental problems confront the Puerto Rican people in the near future:

- **Fostering of native industrial activity.**
- **Improvement of the economic condition of the people.**
- **Final and definite solution of the political status of the island.**

12-3-44

On the question of the political status of Puerto Rico, the program of the Popular Democratic Party is inspired by the principles of the Atlantic Charter and the Teheran Agreement. And in this respect the Popular Democratic Party represents all progressive and democratic forces, already defined as the Popular Democratic Front.

The election results imply a collective expression, a mandate of the people, for continuing the social and economic program of the government. The results imply a repudiation of colonial status. And the most essential pledge of the Popular Democratic Party leaders is that public opinion will be consulted in the solution of Puerto Rico's political status.

THE AUTHORS

ALBERTO E. SANCHEZ, an outstanding leader of the Puerto Rican Confederation of Labor, is editor of that organization's newspaper.

VICTOR M. BOSCH is a prominent Puerto Rican labor attorney.

Says Puerto Rico Proves Segregation Not Essential

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

By M. ALSTON

WASHINGTON

"States and countries which think they cannot do without jim crow should visit Puerta Rico. We have no segregation of any kind," said Dr. Rafael Pico, chairman of the Puerto Rico Planning Board, told an AFRO reporter Friday.

6-3-44

"Recently," said Dr. Pico, "a law was passed making any form of discrimination in bars and clubs punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both."

Colored Legislators

"We believe in giving everyone a chance regardless of race or color," he added. "Some of our most outstanding leaders are definitely colored, including the floor leader in the House of Representatives, Dr. Figuerva, and also Majority Leader, Ramos."

Dr. Pico pointed out that Puerto Ricans "just do not think in terms of race," and that one of the largest plantation owners in Puerto Rico is a colored man but he hasn't visited the United States because of racial prejudice.

6-3-44

Improvements Planned

The planning board chairman outlined a six-year plan which calls for expenditure of 16 million dollars in the island to increase production, industrialization and development of power, water and the rehabilitation of manpower through better education, health, housing, and sanitation facilities.

"There must be better distribution of incomes," he said, "and higher wages for sugar workers. The maximum salary now is less than two dollars a day and that only during harvest time.

6-3-44

"Through the land tenure reorganization plan we are trying to see that the workers get a share of the profits which the enterprises make. This will enable them to better their living conditions."

Puerto Rican Independence

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Detroit, Mich.

BY OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD

12-10-44

WASHINGTON—Little attention has been given in the press to the extraordinary results of the election in Puerto Rico. It resulted in a complete sweep for the Populares Party headed by Luis Munos-Marin, which won every seat in the House of Representatives with one exception and all but two in the Senate, thus overwhelmingly defeating the conservative coalition parties opposed to them.

The outcome amazed the Populares leaders, though they were confident of victory.

It is more than that—it is a remarkable upholding of the hands of Governor Tugwell who has been closely associated with Munos-Marin in all the reform proposals enacted by the legislature since the Governor was appointed.

When it is considered that all the big business men, both from the continent and in the island, have strongly opposed the Puerto Rican New Deal measures, and that prior to the election the Populares had control of the lower chamber of the legislature, the importance of the sweep stands out even more clearly.

To this must also be added the defeat of the reactionary Resident Commissioner in Washington, Bolivar Pagan, who was absent from his post six months during the winter of '43-44, by a much more liberal and punctual delegate, J. T. Pinero.

12-10-44

TUGWELL TOPS—Thus a great majority of the Puerto Ricans has made Munos-Marin the outstanding political figure in Puerto Rico and has notified the whole country that they not only stand for Governor Tugwell's management of the island, but wish him to continue as such at least until the Congress passes the now pending legislation giving the Puerto Ricans the right to elect their own governor.

The conservatives will, I am sure, cite all this as fresh proof that the Puerto Ricans are unfit for self-government. Undoubtedly it may lead capitalistic interests to withdraw their investments from the island if they can. It will make the sugar barons, whose lands are now being gradually taken away from them because of a constitutional provision enacted in 1900 but never enforced until recently, more than ever certain that their interests are in jeopar-

INDEPENDENCE MOVES—There is no use trying to speculate how the Puerto Ricans will vote if the issue of cutting loose from the United States is fairly presented to them.

The economic obstacles are very serious.

Thus, if in letting the island go the United States should exclude it from our tariff laws, as it proposes to exclude the Philippines by putting on five per cent of the existing tariffs every year for twenty years, it is difficult to see how the island could get on.

The leaders of the independence movement are perfectly certain that if Puerto Rico's harbors could be thrown open to the ships of all the world and our severely hampering coastwise shipping laws were no longer controlling, they could speedily build up adequate trade with the rest of the world and particularly with such nearby neighbors as Haiti and Santo Domingo.

But if the Puerto Ricans as a whole are unhappy in their relationship with us they will undoubtedly be willing to take chances of every kind if they can snap the ties with us.

561-1944 Trinidad

Shipwrecked Seaman Finds Only Colored Medics, Nurses in Trinidad

Afro American — Baltimore, Md
7-29-44

Excerpt from Colin Mackenzie's Book, "Sailors of Fortune"

Colin Mackenzie is a merchant marine who was rejected by the army and navy because of a bad heart. On his first trip, he was torpedoed and rescued three times in 24 hours. Finally he was picked up by a Navy boat and put ashore in Trinidad.

SAILORS OF FORTUNE by Colin Mackenzie, published by E. P. Dutton and Company, New York, 1944.

I was a survivor of three torpedoings in 24 hours when our lifeboat pulled into the Port of Spain, in Trinidad. The Colonial Hospital was a white one-story affair that sprawled over a relatively large area, and it was open on all sides like a pavilion. It had no windows, but was screened between the tall columns and arches.

A colored nurse and two colored orderlies took me in. They carried me into the main ward, and lifted me into a narrow, hard bunk with white, clean fragrant linen.

The nurse removed the improvised splints on my leg with scissors. "I am afraid," she said in precise British English, "that you constitute an emergency case. Will you please pardon me for not detecting this sooner?"

7-29-44

She motioned to a passing orderly, and to another, who put me on a stretcher as she gave me an anti-tetanus injection in my leg — and damn it — it hurt — by now those needles felt like lampposts.

Strange Rhythm in Walk

The orderlies wheeled me into the surgery room and a colored doctor came in with a strange sort of rhythm in his walk. "Now, look," I told him, "that leg don't come off. Is that understood?"

He looked at the broken leg, frowned. "We shall try to save it, of course," he said. Again that very British accent. I recalled then that Trinidad is a British possession. "But," he added, "you know, old chap, that the bone will have to be set. Is that clear?"

7-29-44

When the doctor returned again, he wore a white gauze mask and was accompanied by another doctor and two nurses, likewise wearing white gauze masks. I could tell him from the other doctor by that spring in his walk. He had a sort of effortless grace about the way he walked.

One of the two colored nurses, the anesthetist, came over to my head and clapped the ether mask over my face. When I came to I was back in my ward bed. The doctor came in and sat on the side of my bed.

Studied at NYU

"You will probably be interested in knowing that your chances of returning to your girl in good physical shape are very satisfactory. She lives in New York, eh? I once lived in New York. I attended pre-medical school at NYU. But I obtained my degree from Cambridge."

"Were you an athlete?" I asked, remembering his springy, graceful walk.

7-29-44

"I ran a bit, I'm afraid," he replied.

"What name did you run under?"

"Phil Edwards."

Was Olympic Runner

A nurse came and Dr. Philip Edwards excused himself and hurried away with that remarkable gait of his. The nurse told me that Dr. Edwards is a former Olympics runner.

"Whom did he run for?" I asked, "New York University?"

"Oh, no," she replied. "As British subject, he elected to run for Canada. But he has many friends in the United States, and quite a few fans, as you say."

He was a nice guy at that. Or maybe I ought to say in spite of that.

Dr. Edwards came from the rear of the ward and back to my bed. "Must drain your lung of oil now," he said. A nurse came with a bucket, a tube and a small box.

Rammed Needle in Side

Dr. Edwards took the box and from it a hollow needle. He connected the butt end of the needle with one end of the tube. The loose end he let fall into the bucket on the floor. He ran searching fingers along my ribs on the left side until he found the spot he sought. Into this spot without warning he rammed the needle.

7-29-44

I damn near jumped out of bed, torturing muscles which had not hurt me for hours.

"You must be less active," Dr. Edwards admonished me.

I lay down and he helped me over on my back. He picked up the loose end of the tube and held it over the bucket. A drop of dirty black oil gathered at the end of the tube.

"Now, lad, lie quietly and drain," he said. "You should feel somewhat better after that."

Cupful of Oil

I lay quietly and went to sleep. When I awoke, Dr. Edwards was standing at the foot of my bed. The needle was gone from my lung and the bucket was gone. Then I got up and went to the bathroom. I chilled through me. My flesh shook. My teeth clacked. I huddled under the sheets. My head buzzed and my eyes swelled against their sockets and smarted.

Nurse came rustling starchily down the ward. She felt my pulse with brown fingers while she scrutinized me carefully. "We have the greatest difficulty keeping the mosquitoes out," she apologized.

When she took the thermometer out of my mouth, she frowned.

"You have a high temperature; you also have malaria."

I said, "When can I get out of my bed, even before I was completely out of it."

I hobbled out of there, damned glad I could. I crutched out to the end. That's all.

Casualties Heavy

They told me that out of six-teen ships in our convoy, only one got through to Trinidad, and that was the Merchant Seamen's Club where I was boisterously greeted by other survivors.

Edwards came by later in the day. He seemed worried. "I'm sorry, old man," he said, "but I got malaria. Fever

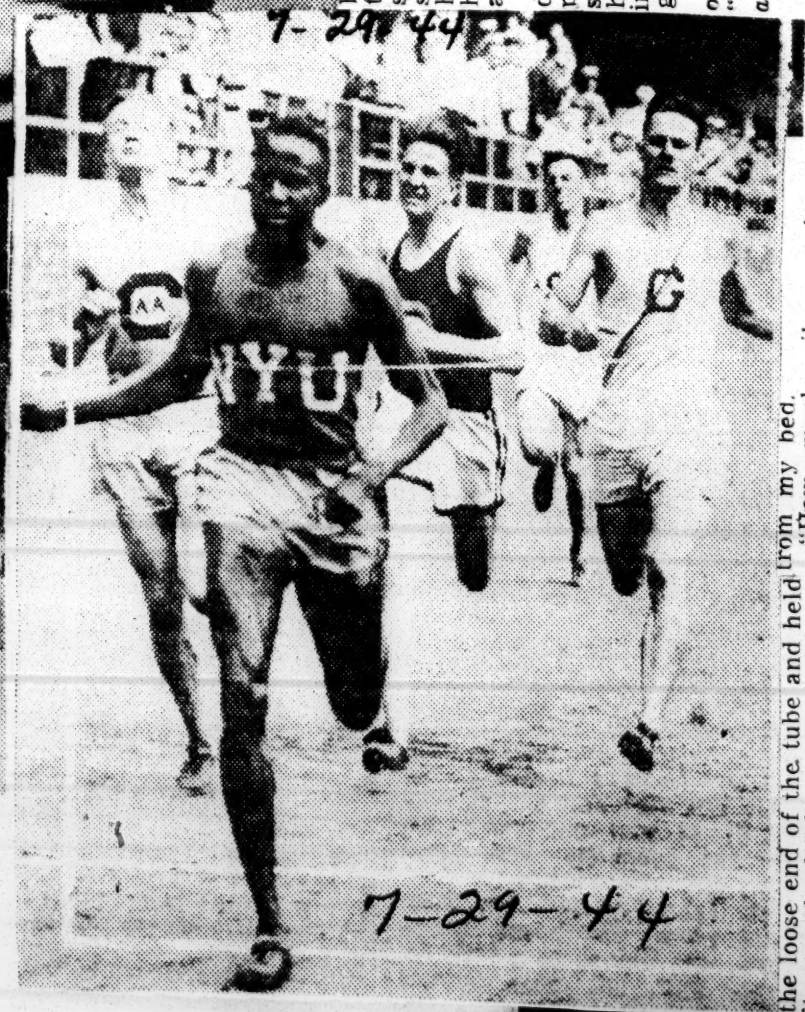


Photo above shows Dr. Phil Edwards with his wife, the former Miss Margaret Oedelshoff. Both have gotten stouter since this picture was made in 1929. Note the short body and long legs of the runner. Right, photo shows Edwards, wearing the colors of New York University, breaking the tape in the 880-yard run at the Intercollegiate Track and Field Meet in Philadelphia, June 1929.

she was sunk when she attempted to make it on across. There must have been over 200 merchant seamen at that club, survivors of torpedoings. 7-29-44

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Edwards, British Guianese-born star and leader of the Canadian Olympic Team in 1936, was appointed house surgeon of the General Hospital, British Guiana, in 1937. He interned at Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital, ending his 10-year sports career.

561-1944

Virgin Islands

JUDGE MOORE AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Defender - Chicago, Ill.
9-29-44

The municipality of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands made front page news recently. The incident which catapulted it into prominence issued from a murder case in which the defendant, one Harry Beatty, a white man, was acquitted.

The decision was given by Judge Herman E. Moore and was the occasion for intemperate outbursts and unrestrained emotionalism. As a result of inflammatory and scurrilous attacks upon the court, two native editors were cited for contempt and given a ten-day jail sentence.

The facts as revealed by the Porto Rico World Journal which published the record of the case are briefly these: The shooting and killing occurred when one Andrew Thompson, a native, refused to surrender an unlicensed shotgun to a white constable named Harry Beatty. A tussle ensued. Thompson wrested the gun from the constable and raised the barrel to shoot him. Whereupon Beatty fired one shot from his revolver killing Thompson instantly.

This was the only legal testimony given in the trial. The court was therefore constrained to act upon the evidence and could not have conjured up some fanciful or imaginary evidence to the contrary. From the point of view of judicial process, it is not the province of a court of law to speculate on theories of probability for the sheer purpose of circumventing the facts of an undisputed legal testimony.

That constable Beatty acted in self-defense is, in the light of unchallenged testimony, beyond the shadow of a doubt. Under the circumstances there was no other course left to the court but to acquit the defendant.

Had the court decreed otherwise, it would have been a brazen, unpardonable miscarriage of justice in the face of incontrovertible evidence.

Fanned by racial and class hate, public hysteria reached so dangerous a height that the defense waived the defendant's right of jury trial and asked to be tried by the court. The motion was granted.

In acquitting the defendant on the evidence before the court, Judge Moore declared:

"Unrestrained mob hysteria in a colored community against a white defendant is just as dangerous and reprehensible as unrestrained mob hysteria in the South against Negro defendants. Two wrongs do not make a right. No court should ever let mob hysteria influence its consideration of the evidence or make it act in any way contrary to the highest concept of justice . . . ."

We believe this declaration to be the finest example of judicial integrity and courage that has ever been recorded. Here was a Negro judge trying a white man who had murdered a black man in a country predominantly colored. Here was a whole Negro population crying out hysterically for conviction of the defendant. True that the mob was misguided and misinformed as to the facts of the case. It is equally true, we are sorry to say, that prompted by public opinion many a southern judge has made a shameful mockery of the law he was sworn to administer and has allowed his decision to reflect the psychotic ravings of a prejudiced community. This is almost invariably true where a Negro is involved. This is not our concept of law, civilization or democracy.

It would be less difficult for Judge Moore to yield to popular clamor and irrepressible racial bias than to maintain the sanctity of the law at the risk of forfeiting his personal popularity. The decision was not an easy one. Above all he is a human being with all the emotions and prejudices of the human race. But he suppressed his emotions, prejudices; he resisted mob hysteria and pressure, and he upheld the majesty of the law with an impartiality and dignity compatible with the noblest judicial tradition In so doing he has set a precious rare pattern for the courts in our democracy, and for which he should be commended and not condemned.

GIVE US A GOVERNOR

Courier-Pittsburg, Pa. 2-5-44

By JOSEPH D. BIBB

THE Virgin Islands, sometimes styled "The Pearls of the Antilles" and then, again, as the "somnolent Edens of Uncle Sam," are again commanding and arresting the attention of Washington big-wigs. Drew Pearson, who is almost always accepted as an authentic and reliable commentator, declared last week, that Secretary Ickes has, unofficially, set about to replace the present governor, Charles Harwood. It is claimed that Governor Harwood's administration is repulsive to the islanders, who are 95 per cent colored. Democracy, as a living, breathing, vital thing, would be revealed to the warring world if President Roosevelt would appoint a member of the darker races as Governor of the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Bibb

I do not feel that I am a bit presumptive in this contention, in the light of current trends. Great Britain, slowly being shocked into the realization that the darker races must be given more than token recognition, last week, appointed a colored man, Honorable Clement Malone, as Chief Justice of the Windward and Lee Islands in the West Indies. Three other colored men were also appointed as Justices of the Trinidad Supreme court. Edgar Mortimer Duke's appointment to the Supreme court of British Guiana was made almost simultaneously. Thus it appears that the British Empire is aware of the problems of race and the rights and perogatives of the colored people of the Caribbean and Latin America.

COLORED JUDGES HIGHLY PRAISED

The Virgin Islands have, for a long time, merited the consideration of official Washington. William H. Seward, Secretary of State under President Lincoln, urged this country to purchase the group bases in the year of the assasination, but nothing was done until 1917, when the government purchased the exotic little islands from Denmark for $25,000,000. Situated only 1400 miles from New York, strategic Allied military bases, occupying 377 square miles, populated by 20,000 colored people and less than 6,000 whites, the Virgin Islands could be made the focal rising point of the hopes of dark folk. 2-5-44

WHEN a colored man was appointed United States Federal Judge, of the Virgin Islands, on March 19, 1939, the world did not come to an end, nor did the breath of scandal pollute the administrations of Judge William H. Hastie, nor of his successor Judge Herman E. Moore. This is more than can be said of some of their predecessors. At this writing, Judge Moore's administration has been eulogized by stern critics and his reappointment urged. There has been none of the internal strife and turmoil in the Islands that was characteristic of the administrations of Judge T. Weber Wilson, of Mississippi. Judge Wilson was severely criticized for his cruel, tyrannic decisions.

ICKES, A FRIEND OF NEGROES

Governor Paul Pearson and the present incumbent, Governor Charles Harwood, have been roundly censured and criticized for their tendencies. The Virgin Islands Legislature expressed its contempt for Governor Harwood by repudiating his bill to punish petty, offenders by imprisoning them for a whole year. The appointment of a colored man as Governor of these islands would not only brighten the hopes of Pan-Americans, but it would aid in putting the islands' administrative house in order. 2-5-44

THE present Governor is a New York politician, who, it is reported, expressed a desire to spend most of his time in New York, after the appointment. Secretary Ickes of the Department of Interior, to whose office the administration is entrusted, is out to get Governor Harwood's scalp, according to Drew Pearson. Secretary Ickes has been a friend of the colored people and his influence should be brought to bear for the selection of a colored man to succeed the unpopular Harwood.

UP TO PRESIDENT

The Governor is well paid, is provided with a secretary at $6,000 per year, a car and a residence. There are other lucrative jobs of honor in the Islands, to wit: Lieutenant Governor, Commissioner of Industry, and Government Attorney. All of these positions should be held by colored people, because they constitute almost 98 per cent of the population and are as well qualified as Governor Harwood.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, holding forth in the Arsenal of Democracy, can do much to help our cause and put an end to unfair dispensation of Federal patronage. If colored Americans are not entitled to the Governorship of the Virgin Islands, then who is?

Should Appoint Race Administrator of Virgin Islands

Virgin Islanders seek to convert to tourist resort

Indianapolis-Ind. Times 7-3-44

WASHINGTON—Seeking the establishment of a program of postwar public works and vocational training designed to prevent mass unemployment in the Virgin Islands at the conclusion of the war, an official delegation from the Virgin Islands Municipal Council is now here for conferences with congressional and government officials. 7-3-44

According to Valdemar A. Hill, chairman of the three-man delegation, the group will also seek wider employment of Virgin Islands natives in federal posts in the Islands. Augusta-Ga. Chronicle

The Virgin Islands include the islands of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix. St. Thomas is the easternmost point of land in the Western Hemisphere and is strategically located on the ocean highway to Panama Canal. The islands, purchased from Denmark in 1917, contain a total of 133 square miles and a population of 30,000 people, of whom 98 per cent are Negroes.

In peacetime, the principal industry of the islands, rum manufacture, employed only an average of 300 persons regularly, Hill said. Consequently, there was generally a high percentage of unemployment. With the beginning of the rearmament program, however, both the Army and Navy began fortifying the islands, and an extensive building program has been underway for the past three years. Hill said there has been plenty of work for everyone in connection with this construction program, which is now nearing completion. At the present time, the island of St. Thomas has a large naval base and there are military airports on both St. Thomas and St. Croix. Military barracks and other buildings have been erected, and the natives hope that some of these buildings will be converted to civilian uses after the war.

PUBLIC PROJECTS

As a nucleus for a postwar program, the Municipal Councils of St. Thomas and St. John recently appropriated $200,000 for a hospital project, and $150,000 for a sewage system. The appropriations came from surplus funds resulting from the war boom in these islands.

Another pressing need, said the chairman, is for vocational schools where the residents may learn skilled trades. Because of a lack of a vocational program, the islands suffer from a deficiency of skilled mechanics.

Hill asserted that the Virgin Island have not only benefitted by the war but have contributed a sizeable percentage of its young manpower to the armed forces of the Allies. Originally the Virgin Islands were not included in the Selective Service Act, but, upon petition by the people and the governor, the provisions of this act were later extended by executive order. Within six months after the Selective Service laws became effective, 2,000 natives of the islands were in uniform. These men are sent to Puerto Rico for basic training and are included in the Puerto Rican army. 7-3-44

Discussing postwar plans, Hill said that the legislature of the Islands would make concessions for new industries. One such industry they hope to develop after the war is the tourist trade. Virgin Islands leaders anticipate that airplane service will play an important part in the development of this tourist trade, pointing out that the islands are only one day from New York by plane. At the present time, Pan-American Airways makes a weekly stop on the islands, and airplane service between the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico operates twice daily.

In addition to the famed Bluebeard's Castle, the island of St. John is developing the Caneel Bay resort, operated by the Virgin Island Tourist Company. This resort is made up of a series of individual bungalows with every modern equipment. Automobiles are not permitted on this island, and it is hoped that one day St. John will rival Bermuda for horseback riding, swimming and fishing.

Seek Removal Of Virgin I. Judge

Daily World-Atlanta, Ga.

By HARRY S. McALPIN
(Washington Bureau of the Atlanta Daily World and NNPA)

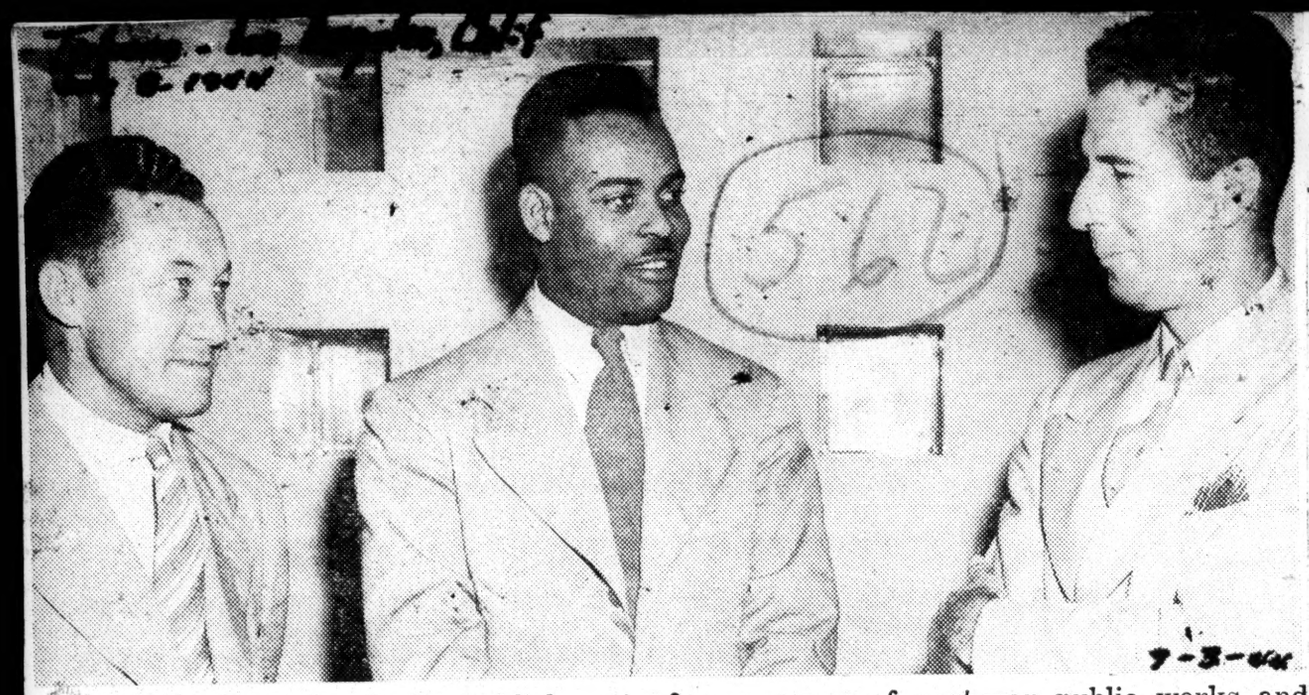
WASHINGTON — That the removal of Judge Herman Moore, of Chicago, as a Federal Judge of the Virgin Islands has been requested by an American Virgin Island political group was confirmed Thursday by the Department of Justice, it is also reported, unconfirmed, that a similar request has been filed with the Department of Interior by the Legislature at Saint Croix.

The request of the criticism Judge Moore has grown out of a slaying in the Islands in which a white man, reputed to be a member of one of the five controlling families killed a Negro farmer allegedly for tresspassing on public property.

Two witnesses to the slaying, both Negroes, are said to have described the slaying as "cold-blooded" but to have later changed their stories under persuasion. One district attorney, a Negro, is reported to have refused to handle the case after learning of the re-switch in the testimony of the witnesses. 7-23-44

The case was tried without a jury, and the defendant was acquitted by Judge Moore on the evidence. His decesion was attacked by two of the newspapers in the Island, and the editors are

7-23-44



CONFEREES—Seeking establishment of a program of post-war public works and vocational training designed to prevent mass unemployment in the Virgin Islands after the war, an official delegation from the Virgin Island Municipal Council is now in Washington, D. C., for conferences with Government officials. Valdemar A. Hill, chairman of the delegation is shown in the center, with members Omar Brown, left, and Roy P. Gordon, right.

Virgin Islanders Decry Judge Moore

Journal & Guide

ST. THOMAS, Virgin Islands, (ANP)—While class and color strife of a poverty-stricken people remain here, local newspapers have come to the rescue of U. S. District Judge Herman E. Moore, who recently acquitted Harry Beatty, white, for the murder of Andrew Thompson, a member of the so-called "colored" or native group.

The St. Croix Municipal Council voted 5 to 4 for his removal from office after he freed Beatty. 7-22-44

He is the second Negro federal judge in the history of the United States. He succeeded Judge Wm. H. Hastie, who resigned. Baltimore, Md.

BACKGROUND OF CARE

The background of the famous murder case which aroused public hysteria to the point of mob violence is traced to the social and economic ills of these Islands where subjugation of the dark-skinned masses has reached a breaking point.

Here, the socalled "native" colored citizenry, which lives in abject poverty, dislikes the more wealthy white and near-white group, who controls the island's wealth and receives the bulk of government expenditures.

Harry Beatty, a member of this wealthy minority shot and killed Andrew Thompson, a native last May in one of the outlying country districts. This shooting was like lighting a torch to a powder keg.

The only eye-witnesses to the slaying were two white southerners who were in the car with Beatty on a ride through the countryside and who, according to reports, lived with Beatty. Their testimony in court agreed with the story told by Beatty that he killed Thompson in self-defense.

EDITORS IN CONTEMPT

While the St. Croix municipality condemned Judge Moore's decision, and two editors were held in contempt of court for unreasonable and unfair criticism of Judge Moore's judgment, St. Thomas Island remained calm and analytical in its opinions of the court's disposition of the case. 7-22-44

"Judge Moore is not responsible for the situation in St. Croix," said an editorial in the St. Thomas Daily News. "The problem is not justice; it is economic. If all the decisions he rendered in this turbulent period were popular the people would still be in abject poverty. Five percent of the inhabitants would still continue to draw 80 per cent of government expenditures and other income and leave 20 per cent to be divided among 95 per cent of the people of St. Croix.

CONDEMNS COUNCIL

"When the municipal council of St. Croix passed the resolution petitioning the President of the United States to recall the appointment of the Honorable Herman E. Moore as judge of the district court of the Virgin Islands," ran an editorial in the St. Croix Avis, edited by one of the men held on a contempt charge, "it performed one of the weakest and most thoughtless acts in its history.

As a federal judge, Judge Moore is responsible only to the President and the U. S. Senate. Neither the Department of Interior nor the Department of Justice has authority to remove him. 7-22-44

Judge Moore is now spending his vacation in Chicago, the city where he became famous as a lawyer.

Virgin Islands Council Asks Judge Moore Ouster

Defender—Chicago, Ill.

By VENICE T. SPRAGGS
(Defender Washington Bureau)

7-1-44

WASHINGTON.—The Municipal Assembly of St. Croix, Virgin Islands, has petitioned President Roosevelt to remove District Judge Herman T. Moore of Chicago, it was learned here this week.

Reports from the Islands indicate that within the past 10 days, the legislature there, by a vote of 5 to 4, challenged the handling by Judge Moore of a manslaughter case involving the slaying of an aged Islander by a member of one of the five leading white families. Judge Moore acquitted the defendant.

A spokesman for the department of interior said the department had not received a removal request but had received a report that the municipal assembly was petitioning the President. The text or a summary of the petition has not been received, it was said. 7-1-44

Based upon information gathered here, both interior and justice departments were supposed to have received these petitions for the removal of Judge Moore. According to justice, the only thing that had been received there was a telegram, dated June 12, from Ashley L. Totten, president of the Virgin Islands Civic association in New York. Totten also called for the removal.

The spokesman at justice said Totten was "barking up the wrong tree" and went on to point out that the appointing and removal power is up to the President and the senate. 7-1-44

The dispute grows out of the shooting of Andrew Thompson allegedly for trespassing on government property. David Beatty, charged with the slaying, is a member of a landowning family and is employed by the wild life service of the interior department.

Two witnesses to the shooting, both Negroes, originally had said there was no justification for the shooting but later were reported to have changed their stories. Police Judge David Cannegata referred the case to the district attorney.

James Bough, who withdrew when he ran across the conflict in stories told. Ultimately the assistant district attorney for Puerto Rico took up the matter, and Judge Moore heard the case with a jury. The defendant was acquitted.

Beatty was defended by R. Amphlett Leader, a well known Negro barrister. Following Judge Moore's decision, two of the island newspapers criticized him and their editors were held in contempt of court and handed 10 day sentences. They are Canute Bradhurst of the St. Croiz Avis and Paul Joseph of the Western News. One of those men has initiated an appeal and the other apparently is serving the time, according to information reaching here.

Problems of Virgin Islands Presented to U.S. Officials

Afro American
Baltimore, Md.

Unemployment Imminent

WASHINGTON

A startling description of social unrest and economic ills in the Virgin Islands as a result of the almost complete lack of understanding of island needs by the United States was made this week by a delegation to Federal officials.

The delegation, which arrived here on June 7, consists of Valdemar Hill, chairman of the St. Thomas-St. John Municipal Council; Omar Brown, vice-chairman of the Municipal Council, and Roy P. Gordon, chairman of the Municipal Committee.

Their visit was made primarily to seek co-operation of WPB officials in easing restrictions on other problems facing the island's the Virgin Islands rum export, which for 1944 was restricted to 80 per cent of the 1943 quota, Mr. Hill, spokesman for the group, said.

The restriction on rum production which during a war construction program there was not so keenly felt, they said, would have resulted in widespread unemployment and hardship in the islands.

However, following a conference with Donald M. Nelson, WPB chief, the delegation reported late last week that the particular threat raised by the export limitation had been averted by an increase of 25 per cent in the land's chief commodity.

The conference also discussed post-war plans for a public works program designed to afford full employment as well as to permit construction of needed facilities which would be financed by returned taxes on the rum.

Ickes concurred with their suggestion that a resident commissioner be elected to assure better relationship between the islands and the United States.

The delegation also outlined

7-1-44

Ask Native Commissioner

The group reported that Mr.

56L-1944

Virgin Islands

Virgin Islands Feels Reconversion Pinch As War Employment Falls Off

By RAMONA LOWE
(Defender New York Bureau)

NEW YORK.—The Virgin Islands are already witnessing an economic depression that well may be a gauge of post-war conditions in other countries if careful planning is not done now.

According to Dr. William Dean Jr., who served for two years as OPA price executive of the Virgin Islands, military construction gave the islands an economic boom up until June, 1944. When the construction period ended, employment fell off and consequently incomes. The rum industry which has received government help and was enjoying a war-time prosperity was seriously affected by the whiskey holiday in this country.

"The government is attempting to secure funds from Congress for a large public works program which will improve sanitation and alleviate unemployment," Dr. Dean explained.

Ration Program

"The OPA program in the Virgin Islands has been unusually successful," Dr. Dean said. "Only cornmeal and flour had to be rationed, but they were very short rations in '42 and the early part of '43. In September, 1942, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico were in a critical condition due to submarine activities and the shortage of shipping. This changed with the control of the submarine menace and the building of Liberty ships.

"The only practical way to get food in was through government agencies. The Office of Distribution in co-operating with the Department of the Interior handled commodities, more and more of which are being turned back to private concerns now.

"The federal government would receive credit for taking over the tremendous enterprise of getting food to the islands and for selling it at low prices the people could afford to pay. For a long time we had the situation of ceiling prices being posted on empty shelves because we simply couldn't get the food products."

Merchants Aid

Dr. Dean, who was officially commended for doing a "splendid job often under difficult circumstances" and who was praised by the Virgin Island press, said the OPA there enjoyed the cooperation of merchants who felt the administration was fair.

"We never had to use the big stick nor were any penalties meted out. The most difficult single problem was a strike of the cattlemen in St. Croix. They were dissatisfied with the price for meat and refused to sell their cattle. But an amicable solution was worked out with James P. Davis, regional administrator for region 9.

Dr. Dean said he feels that the federal government is inclined to experiment in the use of Negroes in high positions, positions in which they are reluctant to place Negroes in the United States. Dr. Dean in his position as price executive had to deal with large interests that involved hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"Recently," Dr. Dean said, "there's been a movement to have Negroes put in the executive branch of the government. In the judicial branch, the judge of the District Court which is a court of federal jurisdiction is Judge Herman Moore of Chicago. The district attorney is the able Virgin Islander, James Baugh, a Columbia university Phi Beta Kappa graduate. He is the only Negro district attorney under the American flag. The newly-appointed commissioner of finance for the first time is a Negro, Louis Shulterbrandt, also a Virgin Islander and a graduate of Hampton Institute.

Finds Integration

"It is a pleasure to an American Negro who has spent 10 years of his life in Atlanta, Ga., to find the degree of political integration and participation that Negroes have and enjoy in the Virgin Island.

"The legislative councils, which are a continuation of the old Danish councils, enjoy mixed memberships. There is fortunately no real race bloc there although they can see the whites of continental America eyes already.

"The Progressive Guide, the party which gained power as a result of universal suffrage granted in the recent Organic Act, has done an excellent job of promulgating advanced social legislation. What they have done is similar to New Deal legislation under President Roosevelt."

Dr. Dean resigned from the Virgin Island post to take the position of administrative director of the Community Relations Project of the National Urban League. The project, financed by the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, has as its primary goal the working out of sound ways and means to improve social and economic conditions that lead to race tension. Other national social agencies are cooperating with the league in this project.

Dr. Dean, who has been on leave from Atlanta university since 1942, where he was professor of economics, said he is "proud to be a member of the National Urban League family."

Virgin Islands Uprising Feared As Result Of Acquittal Of Man In Murder Case; Editors Jailed

Age—New York, N.Y.
7-1-44

"With all newspaper editors in jail, the native people at St. Croix, Virgin Islands, U.S.A. are threatening a general uprising against a Hitler rule which denies freedom of speech and justice to the masses," according to a cablegram received by Ashley L. Totten, president of the American Virgin Islands Civic Association and recognized leader of the six affiliated units representing 10,000 or more native voters in New York.

Totten declared that "unrest and dissatisfaction has been brewing for a long time due to the practices of Governor Charles Harwood and Administrator Harry Taylor to administer to the needs of the selfish few representing the upper class who are definitely permitted to oppress the masses.

"The trouble reached the culminating point on or about May 31 when Andrew Thompson, 60 years of age, a poor native described as quiet, unassuming and law-abiding was shot and instantly killed by Harry Beatty, another native of the upper class, at the instigation of two white continentals."

7-1-44

The defendant was given a trial without jury and acquitted five days later by Federal Judge Herman E. Moore, according to Totten.

"The two newspapers expressed public opinion that such a procedure is contrary to American jurisprudence and typical of the Nazi and Fascists rule. Both editors, Canute Brodhurst of the St Croix Avis and Paul E. Joseph of the West End News have been sent to jail," according to Totten.

Virgin Island Contempt Case Opens in Philly

The Peoples Voice New York N.Y.

PHILADELPHIA—Oral arguments on the case of a Virgin Island editor, who was cited for contempt of court by Federal Judge Herman E. Moore began in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals Wednesday. Canute Brodhurst, editor of the St. Croix newspaper, "Avis," was sentenced to 10 days in jail last June by Judge Moore for publishing an anonymous letter in his paper criticizing the latter's verdict rendered in the Harry Beatty manslaughter case. He appealed the sentence.

11-25-44

Federal District Attorney James A. Bough and the appellant's lawyer, George Dudley, left the Virgin Island recently to argue the case before the Philadelphia court.

As reported in the *World Journal* of St. Croix, Beatty was tried for the slaying of Andrew Thompson. He was reported to have pleaded guilty and was later freed on the basis of the evidence in court. Feeling ran high in St. Croix at the time. Articles published in the *West End News* and the article in question published in *Avis* led to the citing of Editors Paul Joseph and Brodhurst. Joseph served his sentence, but Brodhurst appealed and was granted a stay.

The action of Judge Moore was termed an abridgement of freedom of the press by some of the citizens of the Islands and a resolution demanding his removal from the bench split the St. Croix Municipal Council. The resolution, introduced by Emile Abramsen, was passed by a vote of 5 to 4. The St. Thomas Municipal Council immediately countered with a unanimous resolution in support of the judge.

11-25-44

The Virgin Island Civic Association of New York, led by Ashley L. Totten, supported the action of the St. Croix Council in condemning the judge. In the elections on November 7, all four of the St. Croix councilmen who voted against Judge Moore's removal, were reelected by comfortable majorities. Neither Abramson, who introduced the resolution, nor George Wuff, who supported him, were reelected.

11-25-44

ment had not received such a removal request but had received a bly was petitioning the President. Nor has the text or a summary of the petition been received, it was said.

6-30-44

Based upon information gathered here, both interior and justice departments were supposed to have received these petitions for the removal of Judge Moore. According to justice, the only thing that had been received there was a telegram, dated June 21, from Ashley L. Totten, president of the Virgin Islands Civic association in New York. Totten also called for the removal.

The spokesman at justice said

days, the island in the past 10 days. legislature took exception to the handling of a manslaughter case involving the slaying of an aged tree islander by a member of that the five white ruling families, which Judge Moore acted in power is up to the President and the senate.

The dispute grows out of the shooting of Andrew Thompson allegedly for trespassing on gov-

Virgin Islanders Petition Roosevelt To Remove Moore from U.S. Judgeship

Call—Kansas City, Mo.
6-30-44

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — President Roosevelt is being petitioned by the municipal assembly of St. Croix, Virgin islands, to re-

move District Judge Herman T. Moore of Chicago, it has been learned, here.

By a vote of 5 to 4 taken with-

ment of interior said t

A spokesman for th

defendant.

ernment property. David Beatty, charged with the slaying, is a member of a landowning family and is employed by the wildlife service of the interior department. 6-30-44

Two witnesses to the shooting, both Negroes originally had said there was no justification for the shooting but later are reported to have changed their stories. Police Judge David Cannegata referred the case to the district attorney, James Bough, who withdrew when he ran across the conflict in stories told. Ultimately the assistant attorney for Puerto Rico took up the matter, and Judge Moore heard the case with a jury. The defendant was acquitted. 6-30-44.

Beatty was defended by R. Amphlett Leader, a well-known Negro barrister. Following Judge Moore's decision, two of the island's newspapers criticised him and their editors were held in contempt of court and handed 10 day sentences. They are Canute Bradhurst of the St. Croix Avis and Paul Joseph of the Western News. One of these men has initiated an appeal and the other apparently is serving the time, according to information reaching here.

and has created a wave of discussion that may be re-echoed from the mainland. For one thing he has given St. Croix a precious example of the most rapid-fire justice it has ever known in its history." 8-14-44

Upon the sentencing of the two editors, the native legislature met in extraordinary session and by majority vote requested the Department of Justice, the Secretary of the Interior and the President immediately to remove Judge Moore.

A reply from Secretary of the Interior Ickes to Ashley L. Totten, president of the Virgin Islands Civic Association, declared that "both of these men (the editors) have that judicial remedy (the right of appeal) and if they feel the charge unjust, they should avail themselves of it. Executive interference would be entirely improper." Canute Broadhurst has taken an appeal to the Circuit Court at Philadelphia and is free on bail. The American Civil Liberties Union examining the evidence with a view of participation as a friend of the court.

Claim "class" partiality in trial

Tribune—Los Angeles, Calif. 8-14-44

NEW YORK—Claiming a denial of the right of free speech, the Virgin Islands Civic Association here has protested the jailing for contempt of two St. Croix editors for expressing public resentment at the manner in which Federal Judge Herman E. Moore, an American Negro, on June 5th freed Harry Beatty, a game warden accused of killing a "lower-class" native, 60 year old Andrew Thompson. The editors, Canute Broadhurst of the St. Croix "Avis" and Paul E. Joseph of the "West End News", had reflected on the "dignity" of the court, according to Judge Moore, and were given 10 days each.

Harry Beatty, accused of murder, was freed in quick order without a jury, as soon as the judge had heard the witnesses, an unusual procedure in captial crimes, the New Yorkers natives of the Virgin Islands claim. The "West End News" had headed its story "Rapid-Fire Trial Acquits Beatty of Murder Charge," and had gone on to say that "Judge Moore's decision, the News learns, is in keeping with the general prediction

Urges Closer Ties Of Negroes, Virgin Islands

Defender—Chicago, Ill. 12-9-44

By VENICE T. SPRAGGS
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON. — United States District Attorney for the Virgin Islands, James A. Bough, this week urged a greater understanding between the Negro people of continental United States and their brothers in the Virgin Islands, asserting that in the Islands a better example of democratic participation in government can be found than in any place on the continent.

Substantiating his claim, Attorney Bough pointed to a United States District Court Judgeship held by Judge Herman E Moore, the United States District Attorneyship which he holds, and the office of Commissioner of Finance, the third highest office in the executive branch of the government to which Louis B. Shulterbrandt, a native, has just recently been appointed. The highest executive office, that of governor, is held by Charles Harwood, white, of New York with Harry E. Taylor of New Jersey, white, serving as his assistant and having jurisdiction over the island of St. Croix.

Postmasters for each of the islands are natives, and members of legislative councils in each of the islands duly elected by the people are predominantly native. Such positions, the District Attorney said, were made possible under the Organic Act of 1936 which established a civil government policy providing that qualified natives hold administrative positions.

Limited Education

While at present the Superintendents of Education are white, the attorney added, "We are trying hard to get Negroes at the head of the educational department." This in his opinion would enable them to expand and revamp the type of instruction to meet the needs of the islands. 12-9-44

Education has not extended beyond high school but plans are being advocated in St. Thomas island to establish a junior college. Schools are supported by taxes levied by the municipalities but the superintendents are paid by the Federal government.

Many of the teachers are natives, he said, and have been educated at Howard University, Washington, D. C., Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., and Tuskegee Institute, Ala., through scholarships offered by these schools. In addition scholarship aid funds are available from which students may borrow for specialized training in other institutions in continental United States. Teachers from the continent are welcomed in the islands.

Need For Greater Exchange

One of the basic problems in the islands is that of a one-commodity economy — rum production. For this reason, Attorney Bough said a Caribbean federation would have great possibilities, particularly through an exchange of raw materials, but he added, "We in the Caribbean are greater strangers to each other than to any other part of the world." 12-9-44

The young District Attorney, a native of St. Croix, was educated at Columbia College and Columbia University School of Law, New York. He is now serving his second term of office, having been appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate for his first term which began in 1937 and his subsequent term beginning in 1942.

He is in Washington on official business, and expects to take a brief period of leave to visit his mother in New York before returning to his post in the Virgin Islands.

Hastie Sees World Significance

World-B'ham, Ala. 5-2-44

In Adoption Of W. Indies Report

St. Thomas And St. John Islands Endorse Progressive Action

By HARRY McALPIN

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—The acceptance and endorsement of the West Indian Conference report by the Islands of St. Thomas and St. John of the Virgin Island Group this week was characterized as "very encouraging" by Judge William Hastie, former federal judge in the Islands, and a member of the President's Caribbean Advisory Committee, who attended the conference held in Barbados, BWI, March 21-30.

The conference was held under the auspices of the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission, at which ten colonies and territories of the region were represented. They were the Bahamas, Barbados, Leeward Island, Winward Islands, Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, British Honduras, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States. 5-2-44

In a statement to this correspondent, Judge Hastie said the conference represented the first time that representatives of a group of dependencies have met freely, with the complete sanction of the home governments, and without any efforts of the home governments to influence what they should say, decide or propose.

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

"I think it is extremely important in indicating the possibilities of what can be done," he declared, "not just at the peace table, but in colonial peoples themselves getting together and expressing their view of what should be done in their particular areas."

"If it is all right for the West Indies to get together," said Judge Hasie, "why should it not be right for colonial peoples everywhere?"

He felt it was a part of the progressive picture indicated by the trends shown in the Dutch government conference recommended progressive action to remedy the most pressing problems of the Caribbean, and urged "immediate consideration, looking to prompt action" by the United States and British governments.

The report recognized the fact that the diet of the Caribbean peoples is generally deficient in proteins, vitamins and minerals. It urged government acquisition of land to meet food requirements, government incentives for production of food of high nutritional value, public educational programs in healthful food habits—including milk for infants and lunches for school children.

BWI Halts U. S. Prejudice

Amsterdam News - New York, N.Y. 1-22-44

Down in Jamaica, B. W. I., recently, one of our American USO's advertised in a Jamaica newspaper for help and in typical American fashion stated that it wanted a white person for the job. Well, to put it mildly, this bit of U. S. custom caused the roof to be raised in Jamaica. Before the ink was dry on the newspaper in which the ad was inserted, Jamaicans were demanding that such outrageous, undemocratic, anti-colored practice be stopped forthwith. Of course, the USO backed down and din't insert anymore such help want ads in local papers.

However, this is only one of countless incidents of Americans toting their color prejudice abroad with them. In fact, wherever they have gone to implant the fabled Four Freedoms since the war started they have first dug a deep foundation and planted U. R. race prejudice. They have done so in England, Ireland, Australia, Hawaii, Africa, the South Pacific Islands and elsewhere. They have done so with typical American gall. 1-22-44

This fact is very important to the millions of fair-minded, democratic white and colored Americans, because it is already damaging the United States overseas. White and colored people of other countries simply cannot reconcile the Americans declaration that they have come to liberate the oppressed when they simultaneously discriminate against and segregate their own colored countrymen. Such stupid policy is bound to cost us dearly when we sit down at the peace table with our Allies. For remember, Russia and China have laws specifically prohibiting racial discrimination and segregation. And they enforce them, too.

Meantime, we wonder what else is happening in the West Indies islands? Obviously, the British are maintaining a cloak of censorship in the West Indies as severe as anywhere else in the world. Immediately before the war, the West Indians were about as bad off as human beings could be. Therefore, we would like to know: are these people starving to death like the Indians? Is the British Government planning self-government for them? Will the U. S. gain control in part, at least, over them at the close of the war 1-22-44

It is time that our Government and the British declare themselves about the future of the West Indies as well as other lands where they are in control. It would be in keeping with democracy and freedom.

West Indian Appointed Colonial Chief Justice

Defender-Chicago, Ill 1-29-44

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON. — (Censored) — The Honorable Clement Malone was this week appointed Chief Justice of Leeward and Windward Islands in the West Indies, to become the first person of African descent to preside over a British Supreme Court since Queen Victoria named the late Sir Conrad Reeves chief justice of Barbados.

Chief Justice Malone is a native of Antigua who received his legal training at the Inner Temple, London. Admitted to the British bar in 1916, he returned to the West Indies where he was later appointed associate judge.

His appointment as chief justice was revealed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies who also made known the appointment of Edgar Mortimer Duke as Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of British Guiana. Mr. Duke was formerly registrar of the British Guiana Supreme Court.

Three other Negroes were named judges of the Trinidad Supreme Court. They are Kenneth Vincent-Brown, F. M. Bolard and J. L. Matheu-Perez. 1-29-44

The appointment of these men comes as a result of the continued pressure of public opinion, and of requests for greater representation of native West Indians in the higher administrative and judicial positions by the recently organized Civil Servants Association. Formerly these positions were held by white Englishmen.

As the Crow Flies

—By W. E. B. DuBOIS

Amsterdam News - New York, N.Y. 1-29-44

Dr. DuBois

The Peasantry of Haiti.

The peasantry of Haiti represents an enormous resource. Healthy and strong on the whole living in the mountains on their own land, they maintain a folklore and culture pattern which leads directly back to Africa and has survived with rare beauty. Few groups of people in the world have

The principal matters which Haitians have got to face and act upon are education, land and the peasantry, work and wage, industry and housing.

The expense of education for a poor country like Haiti whose total income is only seven million dollars a year is a great burden. Much of this income must go to pay debt, debt which was not in all cases honorably imposed upon this country but made a matter of diplomatic force. Nevertheless, it must and will be paid. But how to stretch this income and increase it and make it over a country whose mountainous terrain hinders communication is a great problem but the Haitians are attempting it. Mercer Cook and his wife have helped tremendously.

West Indians Warned About U. S. Prejudice

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga. 6-18-44

WASHINGTON —(ANP)— West Indians, members of the First Carribean regiment, were given their official British army instructions about personal conduct and the color line in America before their training on U. S. soil it was learned this week.

Dated May 6, the instructions are listed under seven points and were issued to members of the first West Indian regiment, the First Carribean regiment, before it began training somewhere on this continent.

"1. The battalion with its reinforcements," the instructions read "is going to the USA for a short period to enable it to be properly equipped and clothed and to undergo further elementary training.

"2. The USA is divided roughly into two zones, north and south, Separated by a line known as the Mason Dixon Line. We are going to North Virginia which is south of this line.

"3. North of the line conditions are more or less the same as in our own islands or colonies but south of the line there is a definite color bar, segregating white from colored persons who are not obviously white are regarded as colored and are subject to this bar.

"4. In view of the above it is necessary that all members of the battalion who are in effect, guests of the people of the southern states, are most careful not to bring discredit on themselves or the battalion by disregarding local customs and usages. 6-18-44

"5. All anks should be particularly careful when frequenting the following, (a) any public vehicles; (b) public houses; (c) places of amusement; and (d) business places that they do not enter these places or vehicles that are reserved for whites. If they do so by mistake, they must be careful that they cause no disturbances but leave as quietly and quickly as possible.

"6. All ranks must also be careful that they do not speak to any woman white or colored on the public highway or in any public place. On no account must there be any attempt at friendship with a white woman whether she is willing or not. 6-18-44

"7. These restrictions are difficult to understand to us who have been used to more freedom of movement but it is hoped that arrangements can be made to ensure that you will be able to have resasonable freedom of movement and facilities for recreation similar to those you could have in your own island and colony. These arrangements will be made known to you as soon after your arrival as possible.

"Above all remember that the honor of your regiment and your island rests on your shoulders and whose conduct yourselves you are and only go where you should have no cause to regret the time spent in the USA," wife have helped tremendously. instructions concluded.

such a background for their literature and organization. This peasantry speaks a dialect which is neither French nor African but nine-tenths of its words are of French origin. This makes the education difficult but no more difficult than in China, Russia, Mexico and other lands. The land ownership by these peasants is the greatest economic fact and sets Haiti in advance of all America. On the other hand it is extremely necessary through industrialization, reforestration and scientific agriculture to enable this peasantry to earn a decent living. Today wages in some cases are as low as twenty-five cents a day.

9-30-44

Pressing Needs.

Hospitalization, visiting nursing and socialized medicine are of pressing need in an isolated community like this. Something has been begun in the attack on malaria and public sanitation. Housing is not such a pressing necessity in a warm climate like this but the ancient and insanitary structures, the lack of water and other conveniences make a rebuilding of the dwellings of the whole nation a pressing program.

All one can say about this is while Haiti is faced by tremendous problems, she is increasingly aware of them and she is planning to meet these problems in modern ways.

Women Of French West Indies Outshine Hollywood's Lovelies

Tribune - Philadelphia, Pa.

By HAROLD PREECE

World War II is giving our liberty-loving, Hitler-hating brothers of the French West Indies a spot that they deserve in a new Hollywood anti-facist movie. 11-18-44

What the colored majority of Martinique—largest of the French West Indies—did to overthrow the corrupt Vichy French regime of their governor, Admiral Robert, is shown with fine appreciation in Warner Bros. new film, To Have and Have Not, starring Humphrey Bogart.

The picture has a couple of weak climaxes and a couple of weak actors. Personally, I don't see why Jack Warner didn't substitute one of Martinique's lovely quadroon girls, raved about by Paris artists and fashion experts for crack-voice, whoopee—yah Lauren Bacall who can't act and who can't sing.

If I were shooting a picture about the French West Indies, I'd take a boat trip and bring back a few Martinique lovelies with me. For Martinique grows girls like Georgia grows peaches.

But I recommend this picture to American movie fans. As one New York movie critic wrote after seeing it, "Warners' studio continues to combine good citizenship with good entertainment." He might have added a plus one to this—the big plus of fair treatment of the Negroes.

Last spring, I gave you a story from official French sources, about the Martinque and Guadeloupe Negroes who had slipped away from their islands to joining the Free French forces and who are now stationed in Africa. They left quietly in fishing boats and canoes to fight for undying republican France, as many of their black brothers in Cuba and Puerto Rica left their homelands in 1936 to fight for undying republican Spain.

French-speaking Negroes of the West Indies built the republic of Haiti. French-speaking Negroes of Martinique and Guadeloupe, including Premier Clemenceau's distinguished colleague, Germain Casse, helped found the Third French Republic after the Franco-Prussian War of 1871. French-speaking Negroes of Martinique and Guadeloupe are helping the French present provisional government of General Charles de Gaulle build the Fourth French Republic that will be born once Hitler is drowned in his own beer keg.

It's a good guess that liberal Americans like Producer Jack Warner and Director Howard Hawks are beginning to realize that Negroes will play an even bigger part in the Fourth Republic, and an even bigger part in the movies that will come out of Hollywood.

For, maybe, the Negroes of the French West Indies will show up as the people who helped save our republic in those dark days of 1942 as they helped give it birth back in those dark days of 1776.

Help In '76

Back in 1776, they helped smuggle arms and food from West Indian harbors to the harbors of King George's rebel colonies. Hundreds of them from Haiti, then a French possession, joined the French forces fighting under La Fayette, to spill their blood for American independence at Savannah, Georgia—where Negroes today ride in the back seats and live on the back streets.

In 1942, so I am told they kept American intelligence men in the Caribbean tipped off about the doings of Nazi submarines using Martinique as a base to destroy United States shipping and theaten the Panama Canal. Maybe, we're fighting Nazis on German soil rather than our American soil because the descendants of the men who helped us in 1776 helped us in 1942. 11-18-44

But the Negroes of Martinique were also doing big things on the soil of their own little island when Hitler was riding high on an ocean of blood. They were staging protest strikes against the Vichy regime ruling their islands. They were persuading the native police, directed by one of Robert's gangsters, to look the other way when they staged demonstrations against the Vichy government and Vichy policies.

They were organizing underground resistance movements, affiliated with the Free French movement of General De Gaulle in London. They were making the French West Indies hell and a cup of strychnine for Hitler's roughnecks running their neck of the Caribbean.

Now again, their elected deputies will be going back to Paris to hold high positions of responsibility in the cabinet and parliament of liberated France. Their voice will be heard speaking for liberated France at the peace table—and not only for France but for the colored peoples, straining for liberty, for brotherhood and justice between man and man, throughout the earth. 11-18-44

But I'd like to suggest to Warner Bros., that this up-and-coming concern has just barely scratched the surface of a subject that would make one fine movie after the other. That subject, in its many phases is the Negro in Latin America.

Named Chief Justice In West Indies

...TON, D.C. --(AAP)--Under the pressure of public sentiment the secretary of state for colonies has reportedly announced the appointment of Mr. Vincent ...lon, of Antigua, to the position of chief justice of the Leeward and Windward Islands in the West Indies.

...alace is the symbol of African justice to preside over a British court. The late Sir ... was the first. He was knighted by Queen Victoria. A graduate of the Antigua High School, Justice ... studied law at the Inner Temple and was admitted to the British bar in 1911. He practiced law in the West Indies.

The background of this "native boy" makes interesting reading. Born to ... parents, he was educated in the ... schools of Antigua. He was ... over the age limit. Nevertheless, the talented youth, regardless of this, was admitted to ... and studied there under the ... and he further his civil service. ..., the West Indian ... will be regarded. Themselves. Organizations of civil service, bars, ... Observers ... institutions," ... Crown colonies, formerly held by Europeans, to negroes.

Journal & Guide ... Norfolk, Va. 11-18-44